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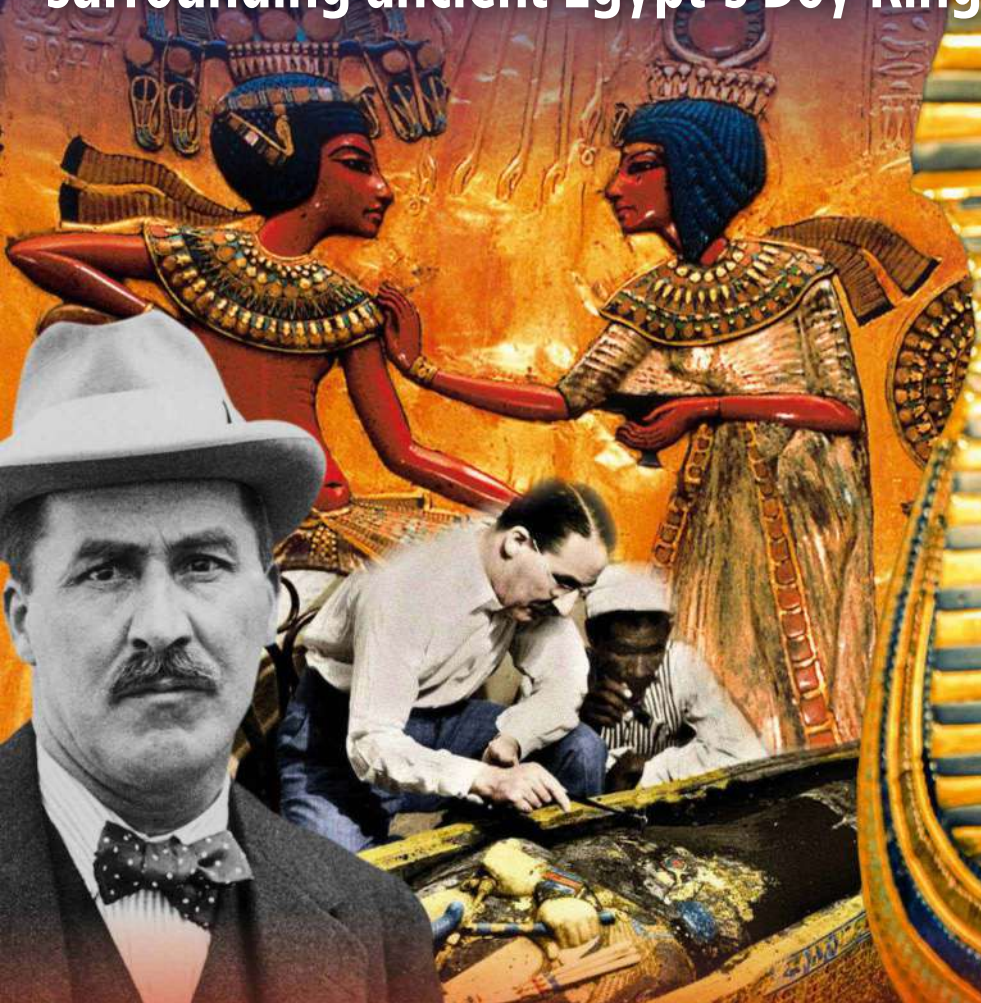
YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

TUTANKHAMUN

Unravel the myths and mysteries surrounding ancient Egypt's Boy King



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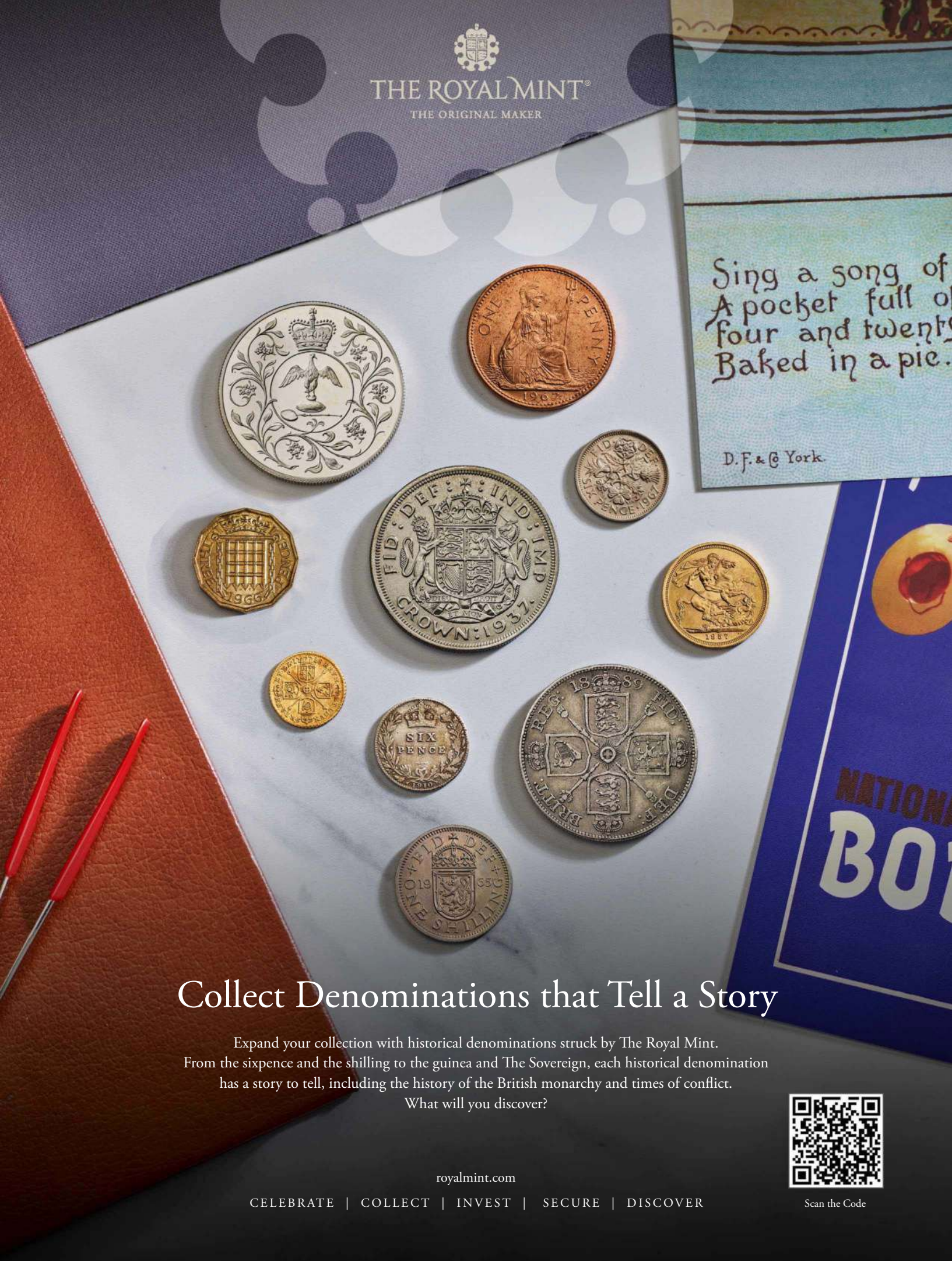

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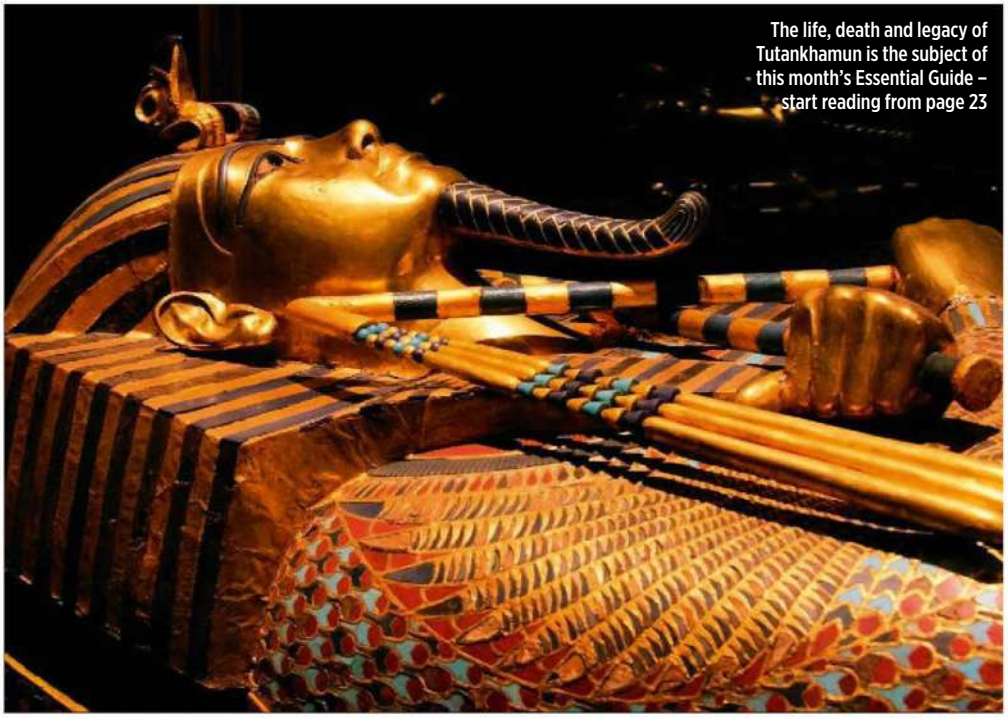

The life, death and legacy of Tutankhamun is the subject of this month's Essential Guide – start reading from page 23

If you ask most people to name a pharaoh of ancient Egypt, there's a high chance that Tutankhamun will be among the first to spring to mind. Indeed, fascination with the so-called Boy King has shown no sign of abating since the discovery of his tomb in 1922. But just how important is Tutankhamun in ancient Egyptian history, and what do we actually know about his short reign?

For this month's Essential Guide, **we've enlisted Professor Aidan Dodson to help us get to the bottom of some of the biggest mysteries still surrounding Tutankhamun** – from the nature of his accession to the circumstances behind his premature death. Turn to page 23 to get started.

Elsewhere, with most children now firmly settled back into their school routines, **we take a look at some fascinating images of education over the years – from punishment to playtime** (*page 54*). We also meet nine now-extinct creatures that once inhabited the Earth (*page 47*); examine what might have happened had the Scramble for Africa not taken place (*page 18*); and **uncover surprising facts about Henry V and the battle of Agincourt** (*page 20*). Plus, in this month's Life Hacks from History column, Justin Pollard looks at how our forebears approached the job of raising children (*page 17*).

See you next month!

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

40
The approximate age, in days, at which a Roman baby began to be recognised as fully human

42
The weight, in pounds, allegedly lost by Horace Fletcher through excessively chewing his food

10
The number of mammoth species known to have existed before the last became extinct in around 2000 BC

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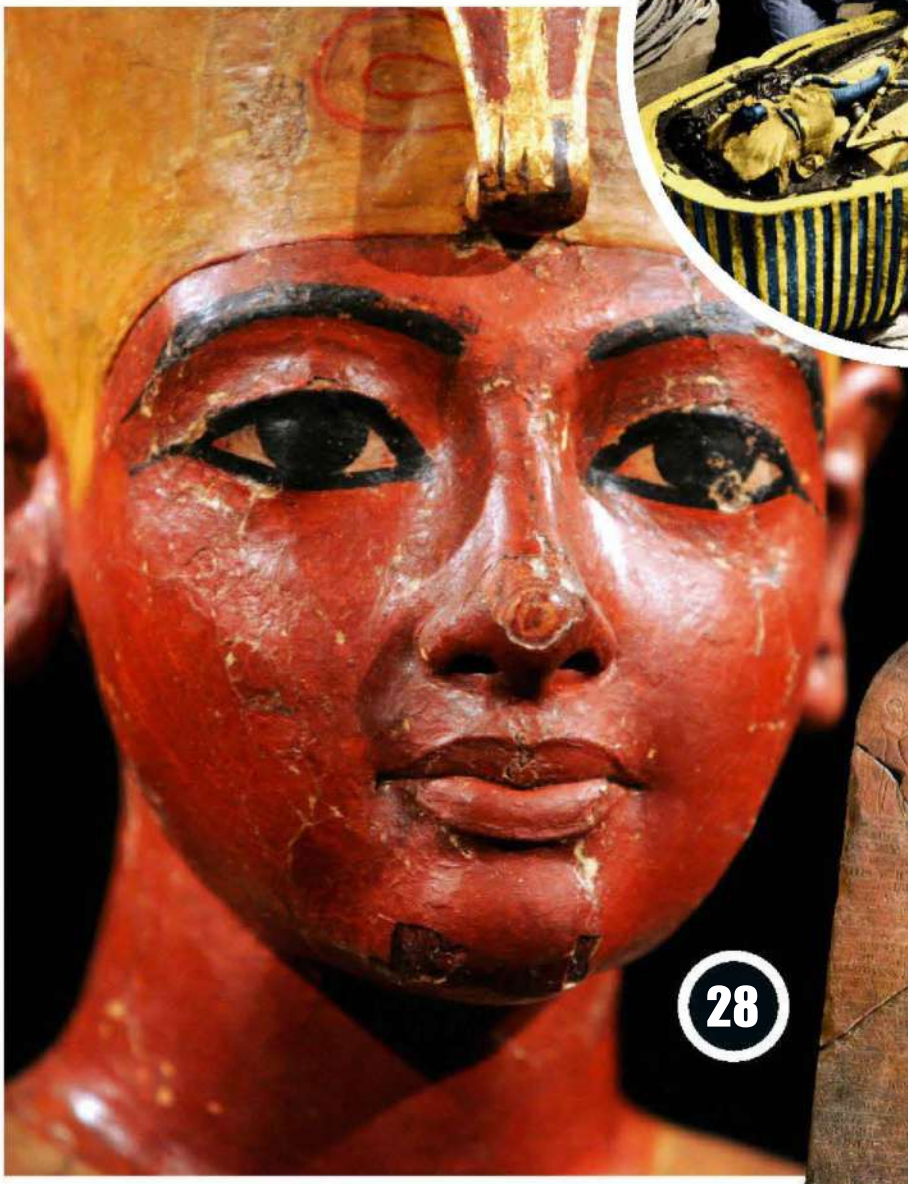

▲ Meet the young pharaoh whose reign transpired during one of ancient Egypt's most turbulent times

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▲ Meet the women who shaped the Boy King's life

▲ Why Tutankhamun's military career is a mystery

▲ Inspect the items found buried with Tutankhamun

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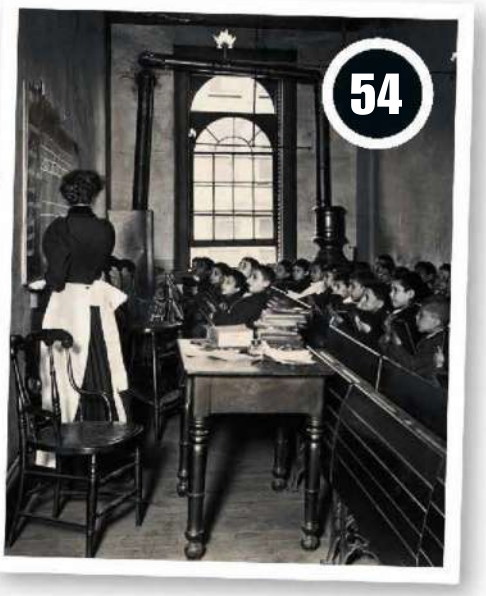

▲ Study the various forms that education has taken through history

SNAPSHOTS

1912
ICE AND FIRE

Even before the *Titanic* sank en route to New York in April, 1912 had brought tragedy to the city. On the morning of 9 January, Manhattan awoke to find that one of its first 'skyscrapers', the nine-storey-tall Equitable Life Assurance Building on lower Broadway, was ablaze. With temperatures plunging to –8°C, firefighters quickly discovered that water from their hoses froze almost instantly in the bitter cold. As seen here, the facade was soon encased in icicles, while rainbows gleamed through the vapour and smoke. Bystanders watched in horror as three men trapped on the roof plunged to their deaths – and the allegedly 'fireproof' building was destroyed.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1991 SCORCHED EARTH

Just months after invading Kuwait in August 1990, Iraqi forces were repulsed by a US-led coalition. As Operation Desert Storm completed the expulsion of Iraqi troops at the end of February 1991, Iraq's dictator, Saddam Hussein, ordered hundreds of Kuwait's oil wells to be set alight, anticipating that this act of sabotage would hamper coalition operations and cause untold economic damage. Here, two US soldiers survey the hellish scene as billowing black smoke fills the sky. More than 30 years on, the environmental scars from this act of eco-terrorism – which also sent crude oil spilling across land and water – still blight the area.

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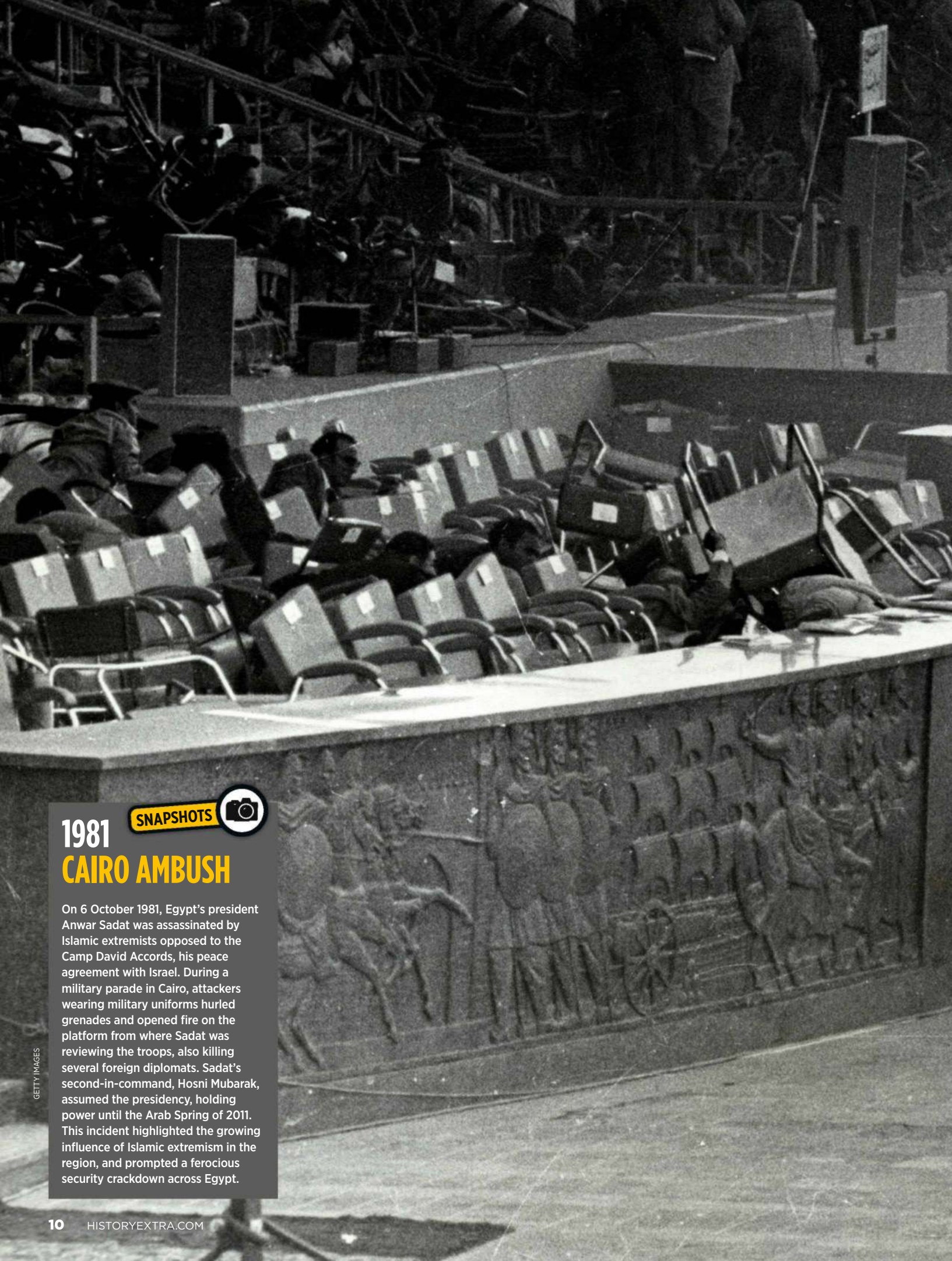

SNAPSHOTS

1981 CAIRO AMBUSH

On 6 October 1981, Egypt's president Anwar Sadat was assassinated by Islamic extremists opposed to the Camp David Accords, his peace agreement with Israel. During a military parade in Cairo, attackers wearing military uniforms hurled grenades and opened fire on the platform from where Sadat was reviewing the troops, also killing several foreign diplomats. Sadat's second-in-command, Hosni Mubarak, assumed the presidency, holding power until the Arab Spring of 2011. This incident highlighted the growing influence of Islamic extremism in the region, and prompted a ferocious security crackdown across Egypt.

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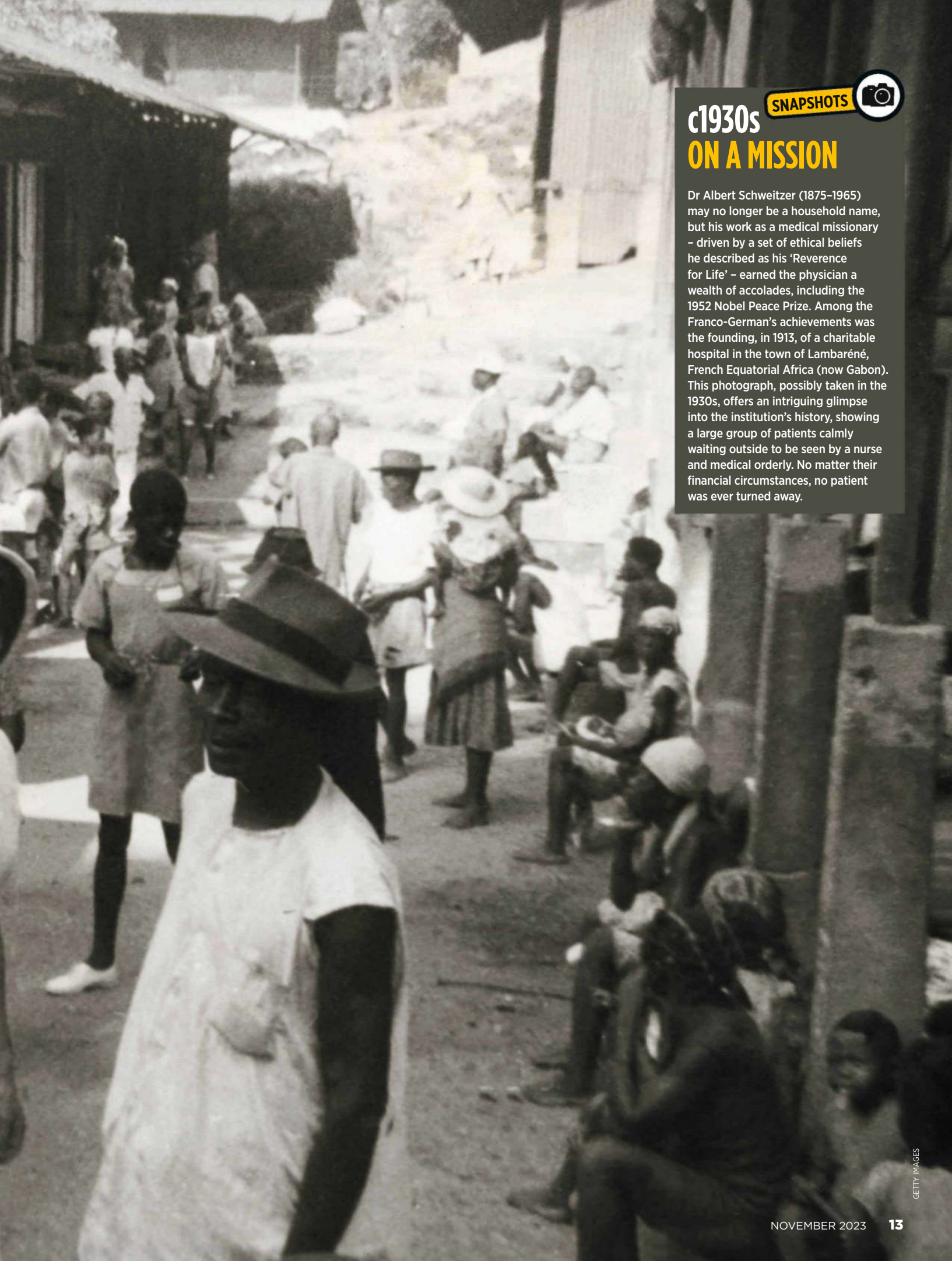

SNAPSHOTS

c1930s ON A MISSION

Dr Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965) may no longer be a household name, but his work as a medical missionary – driven by a set of ethical beliefs he described as his 'Reverence for Life' – earned the physician a wealth of accolades, including the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize. Among the Franco-German's achievements was the founding, in 1913, of a charitable hospital in the town of Lambaréné, French Equatorial Africa (now Gabon). This photograph, possibly taken in the 1930s, offers an intriguing glimpse into the institution's history, showing a large group of patients calmly waiting outside to be seen by a nurse and medical orderly. No matter their financial circumstances, no patient was ever turned away.

GETTY IMAGES

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

WE LOOK BACK AT NOVEMBER'S KEY ANNIVERSARIES

9 NOVEMBER 1989
THE BERLIN WALL COMES TUMBLING DOWN

After 28 years bisecting Germany's largest city, the Berlin Wall – a formidable physical embodiment of the Cold War division between capitalist west and communist east – finally falls. Hungary has recently opened its border with Austria, allowing thousands of 'Ossies' to flood across to the west, while tens of thousands of protesters demanding political reforms gather in Leipzig, followed by half a million in East Berlin. The authorities are forced to act, and the new East German leader Egon Krenz oversees changes relaxing travel rules that are due to come into force on 10 November. However, at a press conference the previous day, having been handed notes about the changes at the last minute, government spokesperson Günter Schabowski (*pictured left*) proclaims the border open "immediately, without delay". Thousands converge on the wall, forcing the guards to raise its barriers at 10.45pm – and crowds surge through, sparking rapturous scenes as East and West Berliners embrace in the streets.

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1 NOVEMBER 1755
LISBON IS LEVELLED BY A DEADLY EARTHQUAKE

It's a serene morning in Lisbon as English clergyman Charles Davy pens a letter – and is disturbed by a "tremble with a gentle motion". Soon the whole house begins to "shake from the very foundation", then a thunderous roar erupts and panic ensues. Buildings collapse, the parish church disintegrates before Davy's eyes, and a colossal wave engulfs the city's marble quay, sweeping away helpless Lisboetas.

The huge earthquake devastates the Portuguese capital, claiming as many as 100,000 lives. Though a massive building programme will later revitalise the city, the catastrophe troubles European thinkers such as Voltaire, who asks how one can "conceive a God supremely good, who… scatters evil with as large a hand?"

22 NOVEMBER 1718
THE ROYAL NAVY KILLS BLACKBEARD

After terrorising the Caribbean and North America's eastern seaboard for several years, pirate Edward Teach – aka 'Blackbeard' – meets a violent end. Tracked to his base on Ocracoke Island off North Carolina by British naval lieutenant Robert Maynard, the buccaneer's men open fire and attempt to board the naval vessels – but are ambushed. Hit by five bullets and suffering 20 stab wounds, Blackbeard finally succumbs to his injuries.

4 NOVEMBER 1839
CHAOS ENSUES IN THE NEWPORT RISING

Amid poverty and political unrest, an armed rebellion breaks out in south Wales, sparked by Parliament's rejection of the People's Charter of 1838 (demanding the vote for working men), and the arrest of Chartist leader Henry Vincent.

Rain-soaked but resolute, thousands of Chartists march on Newport, where soldiers and special constables prepare for action. The Chartists besiege the Westgate Hotel, where they believe some of their number are being held, and bedlam erupts: protesters and soldiers exchange gunfire, killing 22 and wounding many others.

The rising quelled, its leaders are sentenced to death – later commuted to transportation to Tasmania – while Newport's mayor, injured during the chaos, is knighted.

30 NOVEMBER 1936
A BLAZE DESTROYS THE CRYSTAL PALACE

As Sir Henry Buckland, general manager of the Crystal Palace – the magnificent glass structure built in Hyde Park for the 1851 Great Exhibition, then moved to south London – takes his evening stroll, he notices a red glow. Inside, he discovers a small fire that quickly becomes a raging inferno, engulfing the palace in a huge blaze visible from across the capital. Thousands come to watch the conflagration – including Winston Churchill, who laments "the end of an age".

DIED: 22 NOV 1963
JOHN F KENNEDY

The 35th and youngest president of the US is assassinated in Texas, aged 46. As his motorcade drives through Dallas, rifle shots ring out – and Kennedy sustains fatal wounds to his head and neck. To this day, his untimely death is surrounded by controversy and speculation.

BORN: 19 NOV 1917
INDIRA GANDHI

The daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first post-independence prime minister, is born in Allahabad. Elected India's first female leader in 1966, she will serve four terms – spanning the Bangladesh Liberation War and agricultural reforms – before her assassination in 1984.

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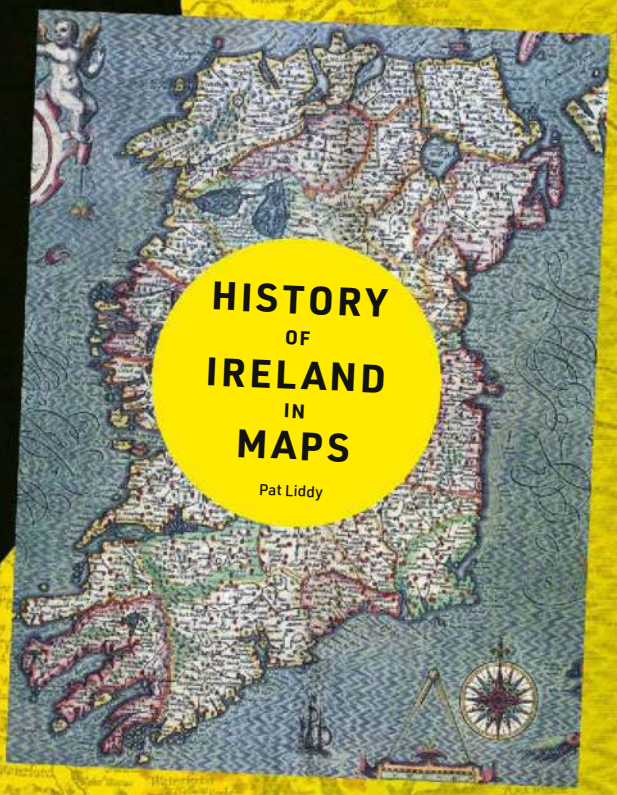

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LIFE HACK #06

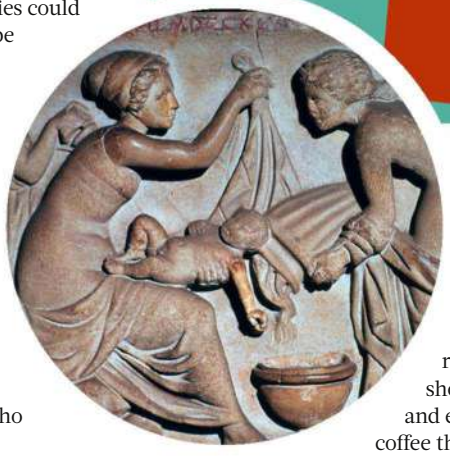
How to raise a child

Bringing a baby into the world – and keeping them safe and happy – is no easy feat. **Justin Pollard** delves into the history books to find out how new mums and dads coped in centuries past

Everyone is full of advice for expectant parents right up until to the moment the little bundle of joy actually arrives, at which point they're pretty much left on their own. So what can history teach us about caring for a baby?

For the Romans, the heat was initially off as – due to the high infant mortality rate – Roman children weren't recognised as fully human until around 40 days after their birth. And that's assuming the head of the household considered the baby worth keeping in the first place, something they had an absolute right to decide when the newborn was first offered to them. The Vikings had a similarly robust attitude, and sickly babies – along with those that families could not afford to raise – might be abandoned and left to die.

Once they had got past that first hurdle, Viking parents didn't have to worry that too much of their time would be taken up with child-rearing, as there was a tradition of sending offspring to be fostered by other families. This drew communities together and gave the child another set of loved ones who might look out for them.



The rigours of parenthood have been depicted in art for millennia – the relief on the left appears on an ancient sarcophagus in Rome

SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE

Keeping a baby healthy in unsanitary conditions was tricky, and the ancient Egyptians achieved this by only fully weaning their children off breastmilk at the age of three or four. Notably, infant mortality peaked around that time as children moved on to solid, and less sanitary, food. Many would today agree with the Egyptians – except perhaps Dr Walter Sackett, who, in 1962, recommended starting babies on solids at just two days old. By three months he recommended that they should start eating bacon and eggs, and start drinking coffee three months after that.

Education is of course a primary concern for many parents, and that begins by setting a good example. Zengzi, a student of the Chinese philosopher Confucius, once criticised his wife for promising their son a slaughtered pig in return for good behaviour. By deceiving the child, Zengzi argued that she had taught him to lie and not to trust anything she said. His wife's reply is sadly lost to history.

But too much education was considered a bad thing. The 1838 book *Fireside Education* tells the terrifying story of a mother who encouraged her precocious child so much that his head swelled, his arms shrivelled, and he was dead by 10. As the author charmingly puts it, "Premature fruit never ripens well".

LARD AND LAUDANUM

One would hope that the modern era brought improvements in bringing up baby, but sadly mass communication has a nasty habit of publicising silly ideas along with the good ones. In the 19th century it was suggested that babies should be rolled in lard, presumably to keep them warm. It was also suggested in *Cassell's Household Guide* from 1869 that the best way to make children obedient was to never give them what they want. Ever.

Affection was similarly frowned upon. The 1911 *Handbook of Obstetric Nursing* recommended that mothers only ever hold their babies when breastfeeding to avoid them growing into 'little tyrants'. It also suggested never hugging, kissing or letting children sit on their parents' laps, and only giving them a pat on the head if they'd done something extraordinary. Meanwhile, to stop children 'fussing', other guides suggested giving them opiates. *Punch* magazine, for instance, satirically referred to laudanum as 'The poor child's nurse'.

Today, laudanum is thankfully off the menu, but one piece of advice still rings true. In Thomas Hill's 1888 *Manual of Social and Business Forms*, he recommended letting sleeping babies lie: "The time will come soon enough when care and trouble will compel them to waken in the early morning. Let them sleep while they can."

JUSTIN POLLARD is an acclaimed historian and writer. As a historical consultant he has worked on more than 50 film and TV projects, from *Elizabeth* and *Mulan* to the BBC quiz show *QI*

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WHAT IF... THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA HAD NEVER HAPPENED?

Nige Tassell asks **Professor Steven Press** about the possible shape of Africa had European powers not carved up the continent for their own gain

In the latter decades of the 19th century, the superpowers of Europe were not enjoying cordial relations with each other. Their animosity wasn't limited to political and military squabbles. Registering poor balances of trade, these empires were economic rivals, too, but they uniformly cast a covetous eye towards mineral-rich Africa.

Between the 1870s and the advent of the 20th century, the European invasion and colonisation of the continent claimed almost every territory in what became known as the Scramble for Africa. Despite their mistrust of each other, the race to carve up Africa was relatively orderly (heavy bloodshed notwithstanding), thanks to the agreements made at the Berlin Conference of 1884–85. But what if the European economies had been buoyant? What if its empires weren't in direct rivalry? What if the Scramble for Africa had never happened?

Such were the natural riches of the African continent that it's difficult not to imagine an attempted programme of colonisation by Europeans at some point. "It is highly likely that a later scramble would have taken place," agrees Professor Steven Press, associate professor of history at Stanford University and author of *Rogue Empires: Contracts and Conmen in Europe's Scramble for Africa* (Harvard University Press, 2017). Professor Press notes that these European governments weren't merely working on their own impulses. Pressure to plunder Africa also came from entrepreneurial individuals, ambitious businesses and even internal public opinion.

"The staggering natural resources of the African continent were enticing to Europeans in the 1870s and 1880s: think of central African ivory, then of southern African diamonds, then of South African gold. More rushes would come along in the following decades, not least rubber in central and west Africa." A scramble – whether in the closing decades of the 19th century or later – was inevitable.

Certainly, had the Scramble not happened when it did, there may have been serious repercussions for the world stage. Without widespread colonisation to concentrate their efforts on, the European powers may well have turned on each other even more. That is, World War I may have arrived earlier.

FEWER STRAIGHT LINES?

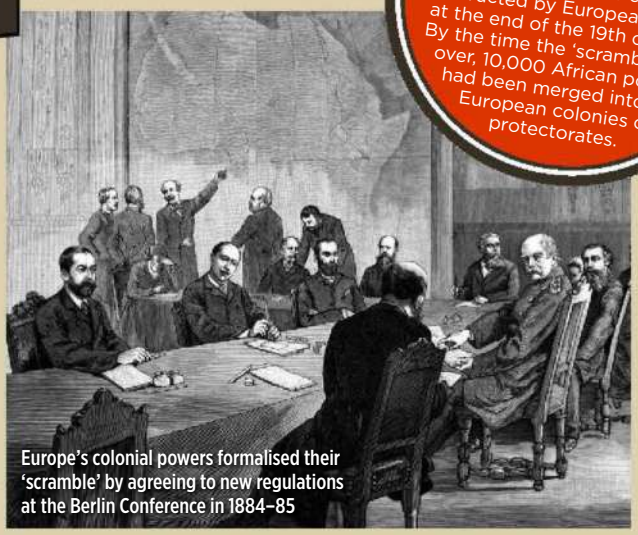
"It would not have been World War I as we know it," cautions Professor Press. "If a major war had started in, say, 1884, there was insufficient technological and economic capacity to sustain the sort of fighting that took place between 1914 and 1918. However, imperial rivalries also contributed to European antagonisms that, in turn, made a world war more likely."

The carving-up of Africa was brutal and paid scant respect to the continent's multitude of cultures and ethnicities. Had such a furious scramble not have occurred, the geographical make-up of Africa would be much removed from how we know it today, as Professor Press confirms. "There is no doubt that, without European interference, the African political map would look fundamentally different. The percentage of straight lines would be much less. For instance, a country like Namibia would likely never have been organised into a single political unit, but rather would exist in three or so parts.

"Broadly speaking, the trend in non-African parts of the world in the 19th century was toward fewer, and larger, states. Without the outrageously long and straight lines often drawn up arbitrarily by European diplomats

IN CONTEXT

Between the 1870s and the turn of the 20th century, the African continent was subjected to mass invasion and colonisation by the superpowers of Europe who absorbed these vast, resource-heavy territories into their empires. This Scramble for Africa was brutal and unrelenting, with the likes of Britain, France and Germany in concert when it came to how the continent was divvied up. Most countries fought for and achieved independence almost a century later, but – whether politically, culturally and certainly economically – the scars of colonisation still very much define Africa today.



Europe's colonial powers formalised their 'scramble' by agreeing to new regulations at the Berlin Conference in 1884–85

DID YOU KNOW?

LASTING LEGACY

Almost all of the modern states of Africa are entities constructed by European powers at the end of the 19th century. By the time the 'scramble' was over, 10,000 African polities had been merged into 40 European colonies or protectorates.

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

ignorant of Africa, we might have seen more numerous and modestly sized African political units establish themselves for a time, perhaps along more tightly united ethnic, religious or cultural lines. That said, African empires could well have grown more pronounced and dominant in the absence of European incursion. Ethiopia, which remained independent during the Scramble, is perhaps the most important actor to consider in this scenario. By the 1890s, it had literally turned into an empire and triumphed over a European army in the First Italo-Ethiopian War."

COURTED BY RIVALS

Professor Press is in no doubt that an un-colonised Africa would been stronger economically than it is now, a scenario that may have been achieved by a confederation of states evolving over time. "In the run-up to decolonisation, African leaders were experimenting with confederations and unions of states that would have looked very different from the political map that exists today. One example was the short-lived Union of African States between Ghana, Guinea and Mali. In the event, the 'nation-state' wound up becoming the typical political unit for Africa, and it did so along boundary lines more or less left over from the colonial powers."

Finally, to what degree would an un-colonised Africa have been nonetheless still shaped by world affairs beyond the continent? Would, for instance, communism have taken more of a hold? "It's plausible that it might have been," concludes Professor Press, "had European colonialism and postcolonial control via surrogates like President Mobutu in Zaire not been around to block such a development. But we can assume that some African nations would at least have seen the US–USSR rivalry as an opportunity to establish beneficial relationships and extract gains. Most countries do this when they are courted by rival great powers."

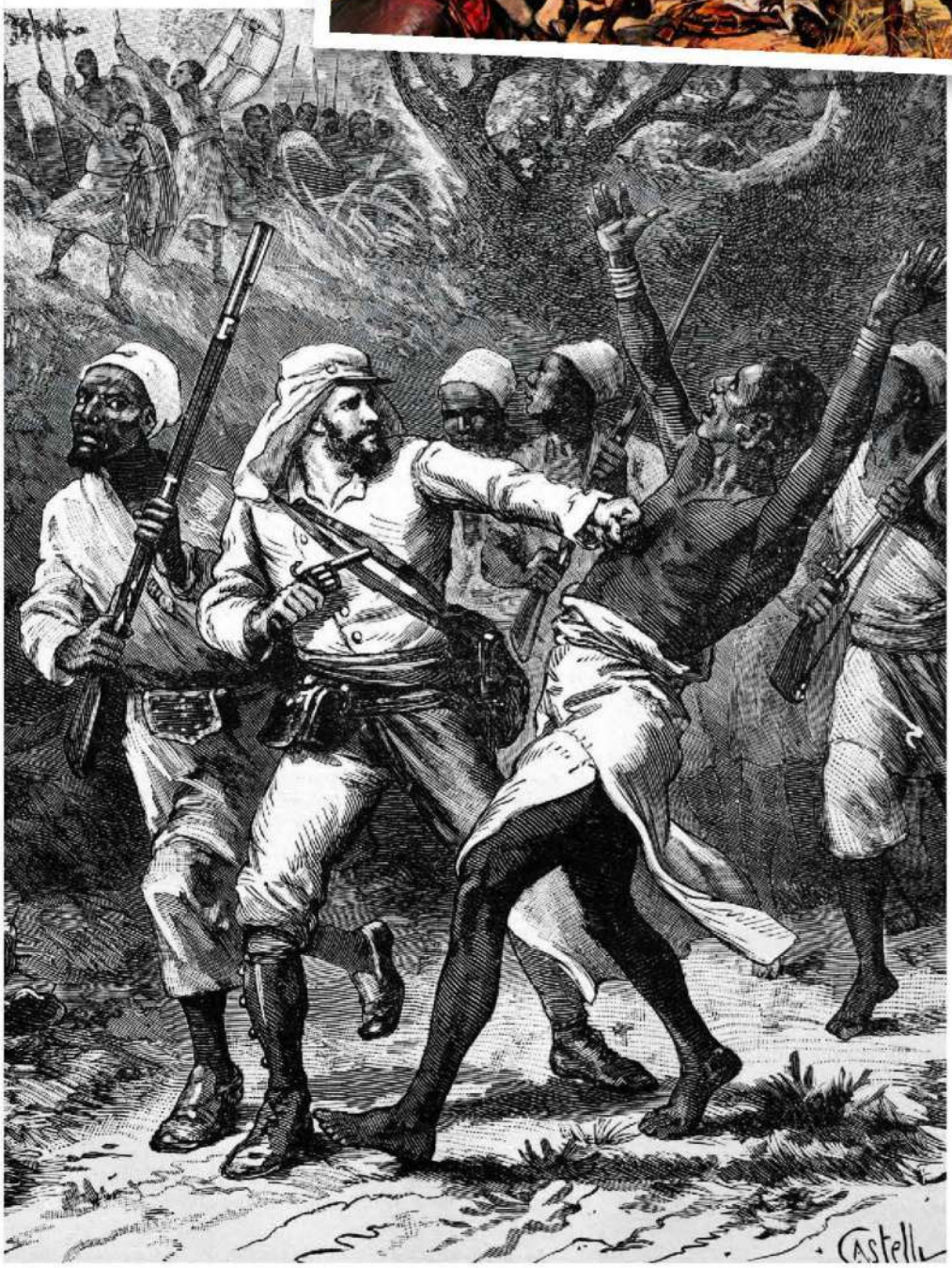
GET HOOKED

READ
Six leading historians debate the question 'Is Africa a prisoner of its past?' in a 2017 feature on the *HistoryExtra* website: *historyextra.com/africa-big-question*

NEXT MONTH
What if... Charles V had gone to war with Henry VIII?

RIGHT: **Ethiopia's triumph during the First Italo-Ethiopian War, fought between 1895 and 1896, secured the empire's sovereignty for decades**

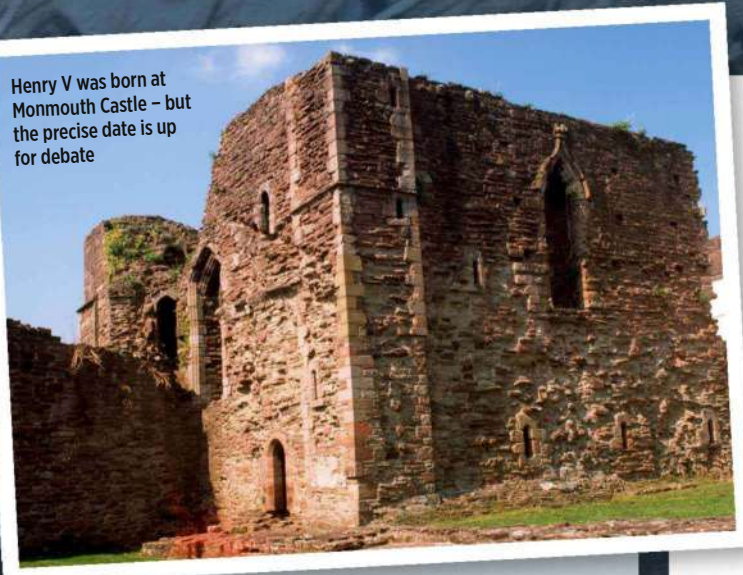
BELOW: **An 1884 engraving depicts a white European man fighting off an African opponent. Propaganda was key to promoting imperial ambitions at home**



"THE CARVING-UP OF AFRICA WAS BRUTAL AND PAID SCANT RESPECT TO THE CONTINENT'S MULTITUDE OF CULTURES AND ETHNICITIES"

9 THINGS YOU (PROBABLY) DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HENRY V AND AGINCOURT

Teresa Cole shares lesser-known facts about the English king and the against-all-odds battle that secured his legacy

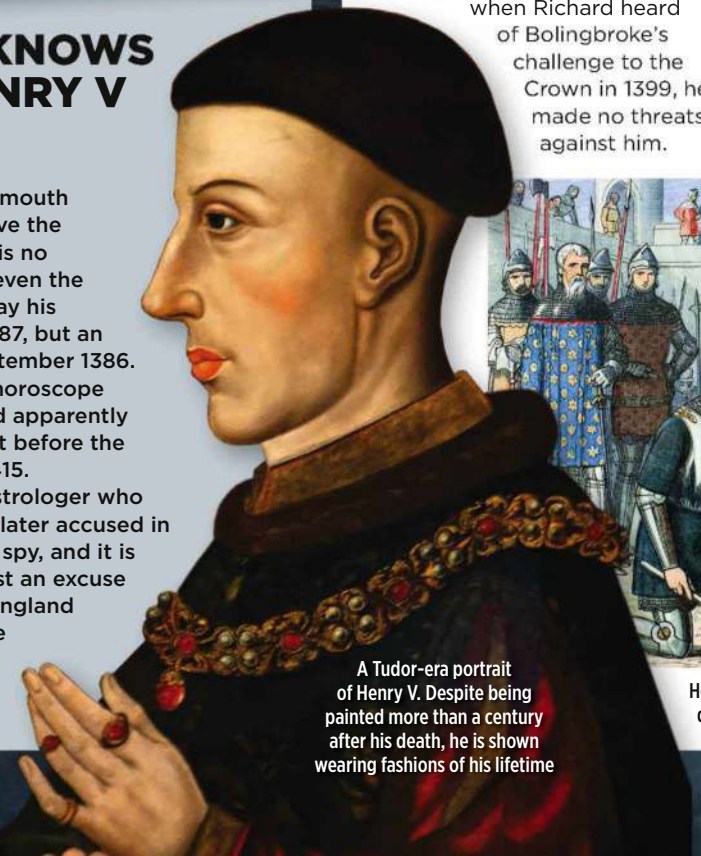


Henry V was born at Monmouth Castle – but the precise date is up for debate

1 NOBODY KNOWS WHEN HENRY V WAS BORN

Henry V was born at Monmouth Castle, perched high above the River Monnow, but there is no record of his birth – and even the year is uncertain. Some say his birthday was 9 August 1387, but an alternative date is 16 September 1386. The latter comes from a horoscope drawn up for the king and apparently commissioned by him just before the Agincourt campaign in 1415.

However, the French astrologer who drew the horoscope was later accused in Paris of being an English spy, and it is possible the work was just an excuse for the man to come to England and meet with Henry. The king apparently showed no interest in the horoscope afterwards.



A Tudor-era portrait of Henry V. Despite being painted more than a century after his death, he is shown wearing fashions of his lifetime

2 HE ENJOYED A CLOSE BOND WITH RICHARD II

When his father, Henry Bolingbroke, was sent into exile in 1398, Henry was placed in the custody of Richard II. But rather than having his rival's son maimed or put to death, Richard treated the boy with respect: he spent time with him, took him on expedition to Ireland, and even knighted him along the way. And incredibly, when Richard heard of Bolingbroke's challenge to the Crown in 1399, he made no threats against him.

It seems that, in return, Henry saw Richard as something of a father figure. After Bolingbroke had taken the throne as Henry IV and asked that his son come and see him in the Palace of Westminster, it is said that Henry instead went to visit Richard in the Tower of London. If accounts from the time are to be believed, only at the king's insistence did the younger Henry finally go to see his father.

When Henry himself became king in 1413, he demanded that Richard's body be exhumed from its obscure resting place in Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, and reburied in Westminster Abbey.

Henry Bolingbroke depicted kneeling before Richard II during the king's capture at Flint Castle, Wales

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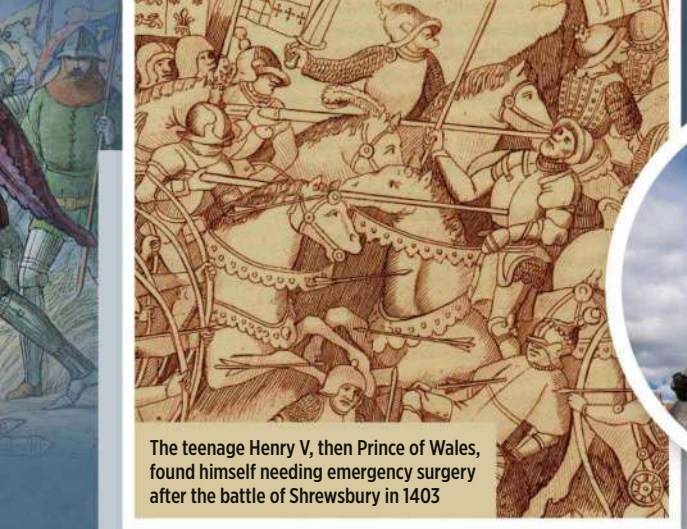


The teenage Henry V, then Prince of Wales, found himself needing emergency surgery after the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403

ABOVE: Henry's attempts to capture Harlech Castle saw the Welsh fortress pummelled by heavy cannon fire

LEFT: A statue of Owain Glyndŵr in Corwen, Denbighshire. The Welsh rebel famously refused to surrender to Henry

3 HIS FIRST BATTLE WAS NEARLY HIS LAST

Henry's first major pitched battle (before becoming king) was not against the French, but the English. On 21 July 1403, the 16-year-old Prince of Wales lined up alongside his father to face the forces of the rebel lord Henry Percy at Shrewsbury.

The prince led his forces well, and made a major contribution to the victory. In the course of the battle, however, he was wounded by an arrow that entered his face just below the left eye, embedding itself in a section of bone at the back of his skull (miraculously missing his brain and spinal cord).

To remove the arrowhead, special tongs had to be designed, made and carefully inserted nearly six inches into the wound to grip and extract the metal. It took a further three weeks to cleanse and close up the hole – an undoubtedly painful ordeal, given the lack of painkillers or anaesthetics.

4 HE LEARNT HIS MILITARY TACTICS IN WALES

The tactics used by Henry V in his French wars were first tried out in Wales. Less than a year after Henry became Prince of Wales, aged 13, Owain Glyndŵr began a violent rebellion against the English. The king's policy of attack and withdraw was unsuccessful, and Glyndŵr rapidly spread his influence from north Wales to almost the entirety of the country.

When, however, Henry was given a freer hand in his late teens, he changed tactics. Now he concentrated on taking strategic castles which were then garrisoned and held securely, cutting off supply routes and enabling further advances. Gradually Glyndŵr was forced back to two strongholds on the west coast – Aberystwyth and Harlech. Each was besieged and battered by traditional siege weapons, and, for the first time in history (at least in the British Isles), cannon were used.

Eventually Glyndŵr's supporters were starved into submission, and though Glyndwr himself was never captured, the war was ended. A few years later Henry then conquered Normandy, and then a large part of northern France, using the same tactics.

5 HIS CLAIM TO FRANCE ALLEGEDLY STEMMED FROM A 'TEMPLAR'S CURSE'

In 1307, Philippe IV of France seized the property of the Knights Templar, before having its members tortured and executed. According to legend, the Templars' last grand master – burned at the stake in 1314 – is said to have used his dying breaths to lay a curse on Philippe and his descendants, declaring that the king would be dead within a year.

The 'curse' appeared to work: eight months later, Philippe suffered a fatal stroke while out hunting, and in 1316, his son Louis X collapsed and died after playing sports. Remarkably, the next three kings also died prematurely.

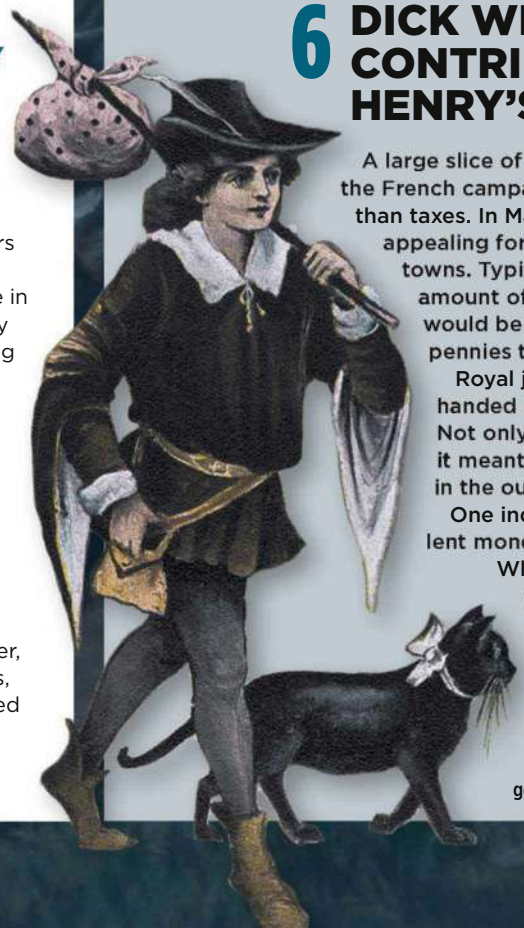
By 1328, the closest people in line to the vacant French throne were Jeanne II of Navarre, daughter of Louis X and Magaret of Burgundy, and Edward III of England, whose mother was Philippe's daughter. Navarre and Edward, however, were deemed unacceptable, so Philippe of Valois, a cousin of the last king (Charles IV), was crowned instead. Edward challenged this – a key cause of the Hundred Years' War – and it was his claim that was later revived by Henry V.

6 DICK WHITTINGTON CONTRIBUTED TO HENRY'S WARS

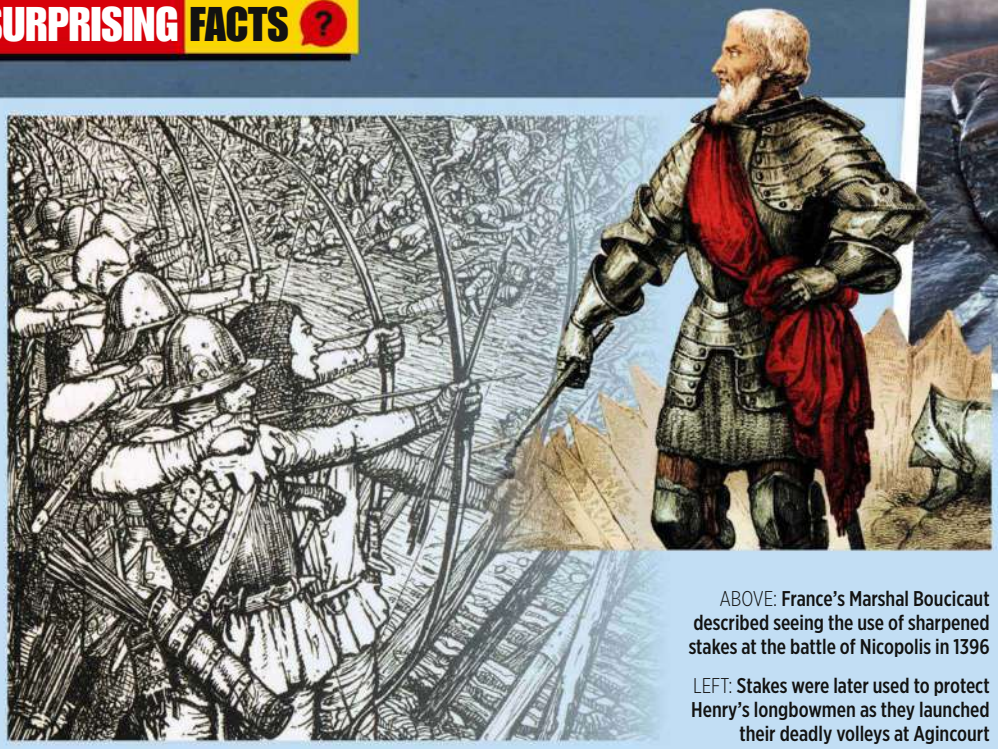
A large slice of the money needed to pay for the French campaigns was raised by loans rather than taxes. In May 1415, Henry sent letters appealing for money to individuals, and to towns. Typically a town would decide on the amount of the loan, and then every citizen would be assessed to contribute even a few pennies to the sum agreed.

Royal jewels, plate and regalia were handed out as security for repayment. Not only did this raise a lot of money, but it meant almost everyone had an interest in the outcome of the French wars.

One individual in London who lent money to Henry was Richard Whittington, a rich merchant who was indeed the same Dick Whittington as in the children's story. He was lord mayor of London four times.



He probably didn't own a cat, but the life of Richard 'Dick' Whittington would go on to inspire a popular pantomime



ABOVE: **France's Marshal Boucicaut described seeing the use of sharpened stakes at the battle of Nicopolis in 1396**

LEFT: **Stakes were later used to protect Henry's longbowmen as they launched their deadly volleys at Agincourt**

The effigy that currently sits atop Henry V's tomb was only created in the 1970s

7 A FRENCH COMMANDER TOLD HENRY HOW TO WIN AT AGINCOURT

The French plan at Agincourt, fought on 25 October 1415, was to use massed cavalry to mow down the English archers. Henry V learnt of this from a French prisoner some days before the battle, and immediately took steps to counter it: every archer was to drive a sharpened stake into the ground in front of him to stop the charging horses.

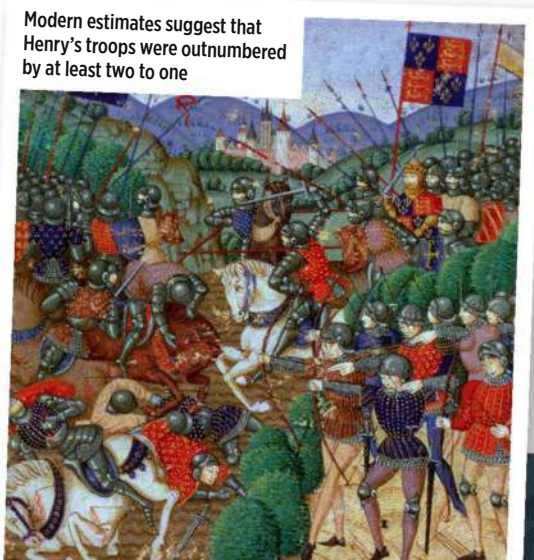
The strategy worked extremely well, but it was probably not Henry's own invention. The French commander, Marshal Boucicaut, had earlier fought against the Turks at the battle of Nicopolis, and had seen a cavalry charge halted by a similar mass of sharpened stakes. He had written an account of this and it is possible that either Henry himself, or perhaps one of his commanders, Edward, Duke of York, had read it and remembered the effectiveness of the tactic.

8 SOME OF THE MEN AT AGINCOURT DIED OF SUFFOCATION

There are no reliable figures for the size of the French army at Agincourt, but they likely had a significant numerical advantage over their opponents. And, in their eagerness to get at the English, most of the leading figures were crammed into the front ranks.

When the action was triggered by a flight of arrows from the English side, the French charged forward in accordance with their battle plan. Funnelled into a narrower part of the field where Henry had taken up his position, the French were pushed together, and though many did not reach the English ranks, there were plenty that did. As these men were cut down, those pressing behind climbed over them, and anyone who slipped or fell in the muddy ground had little chance of getting up again.

As the battle progressed, the pile of bodies rose higher, and any soldiers who were wounded or simply knocked over were crushed beneath the weight of those coming behind. Very few people were found alive when the heaps of bodies were at last unpicked after the battle.



Modern estimates suggest that Henry's troops were outnumbered by at least two to one

9 HE MOST LIKELY DIED OF DYSENTERY

Medieval sieges were perilous affairs for all involved: unsanitary conditions and a shortage of fresh water frequently led to outbreaks of dysentery among the siegers and the besieged, and it is likely that this is the disease that Henry contracted while prosecuting the siege of Meaux in 1422 – though it took some time to weaken him and ultimately claim his life.

Following his death, the king's body was brought back to England for burial, and after considerable ceremony he was laid to rest behind the altar in Westminster Abbey, close to his hero Edward the Confessor. A magnificent chapel was erected around him, and a life-sized effigy placed on the tomb with a head of solid silver.

Sadly, the silver had been stolen by the mid-16th century, and the later Tudor building now dwarfs his resting place. Today, many tourists pass the spot without realising he is there, as all that can be seen of the effigy is the soles of its feet.

TERESA COLE is the author of *Henry V: The Life of the Warrior King & the Battle of Agincourt 1415* (Amberley, 2015) and the forthcoming *Women of Power: Formidable Females of the Medieval World* (Amberley, 2023)

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Medieval historian Professor Anne Curry answers questions about the Hundred Years' War on a 2020 episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast. Stream now at *historyextra.com/hundred-years-qa*

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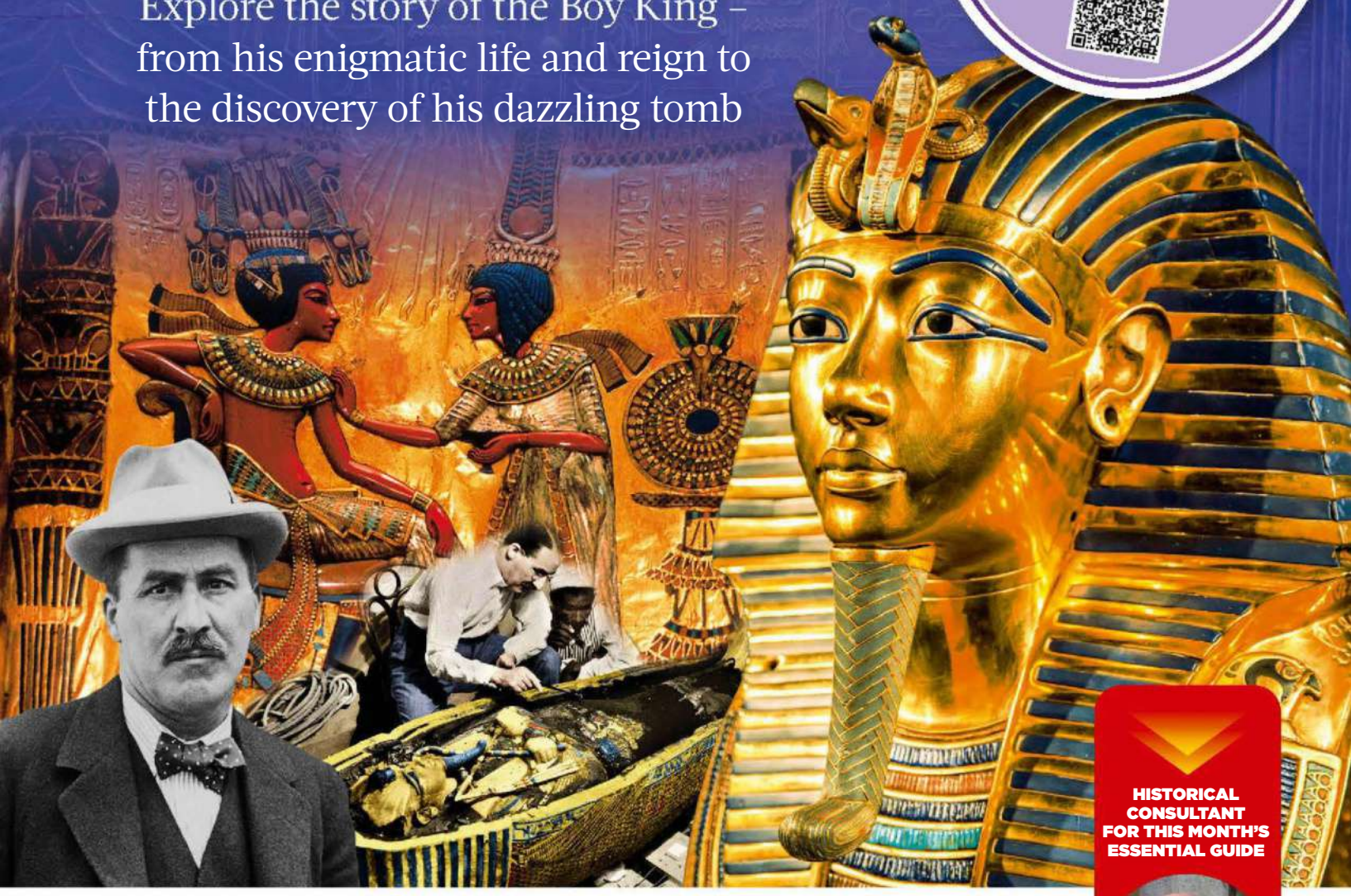
YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO

TUTANKHAMUN

Explore the story of the Boy King – from his enigmatic life and reign to the discovery of his dazzling tomb

PODCAST

This guide accompanies our seven-part podcast series *Tutankhamun: Life, Death and Legacy*. Listen now at historyextra.com/tutankhamun-series



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HISTORICAL CONSULTANT FOR THIS MONTH'S ESSENTIAL GUIDE

AIDAN DODSON
is honorary full Professor of Egyptology at the University of Bristol and the author of some 25 books, including *Tutankhamun, King of Egypt: His Life and Afterlife* (AUC Press, 2023)

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TUTANKHAMUN

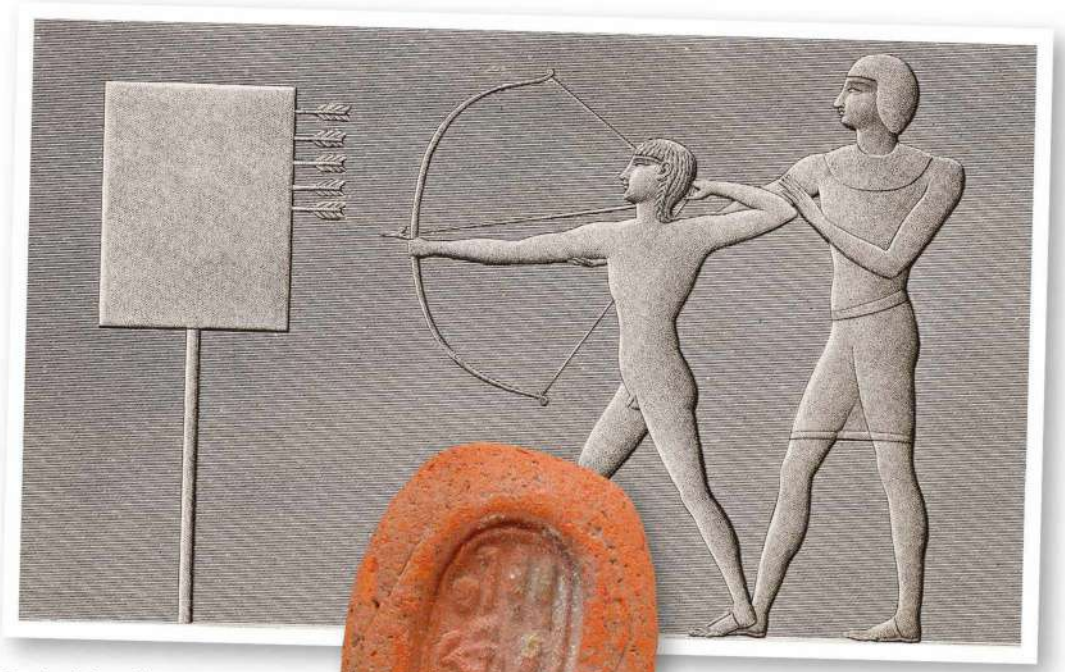
Professor Aidan Dodson answers some of the burning questions surrounding the life and reign of the Boy King

Q: Do we know when Tutankhamun was born?

A: Tutankhamun was born in the middle of the 14th century BC, but the precise date is not definitively known. However, it is generally accepted that he died around the age of 18 or 19, which allows us to estimate his birth year by counting back from his death. The historical context of his birth is still a subject of debate, largely dependent on how one interprets the history of that era. It is certain that he lived during a significant period, when Akhenaten was in power. This was a transformative time in Egyptian history, especially among the elite, providing some insight into the circumstances of Tutankhamun's life.

Q: How old was he when he became pharaoh?

A: Tutankhamun is believed to have become pharaoh at a young age, likely around eight or nine years old. As above, this estimate is based on the fact that he died around the age of 18 or 19, in the 10th year of his reign. The concept of a young king ascending to the throne is not unique to Tutankhamun, though; it has been a common occurrence throughout history, including in medieval and modern times. However, it's unlikely that he held significant decision-making power until he reached his late teens.



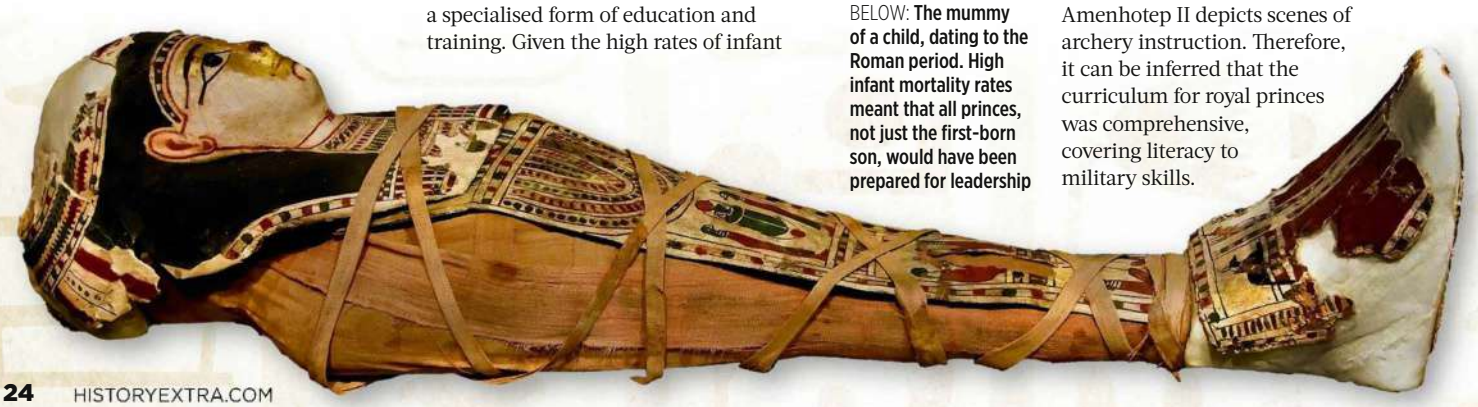
Pharaohs were trained in skills like archery, as demonstrated by this scene from the tomb of Minnakht, a tutor of the future Amenhotep II

During his early years as pharaoh, a regent likely acted on his behalf, serving as the king's deputy. Therefore, it's improbable that Tutankhamun had a major influence on governance until shortly before his death.

Q: Would he have been prepared for kingship?

A: It is known that royal princes, including Tutankhamun, underwent a specialised form of education and training. Given the high rates of infant mortality at the time, even princes who were not first-born would have been prepared for potential leadership, as there was always the possibility of an elder sibling passing away. Evidence of this specialised education comes from the tombs of tutors who trained future kings. For instance, the tomb of a tutor who trained the prince who later became Amenhotep II depicts scenes of archery instruction. Therefore, it can be inferred that the curriculum for royal princes was comprehensive, covering literacy to military skills.

ABOVE: **A mould bearing the name of Ay, who may have been Tutankhamun's maternal grandfather**



BELOW: **The mummy of a child, dating to the Roman period. High infant mortality rates meant that all princes, not just the first-born son, would have been prepared for leadership**

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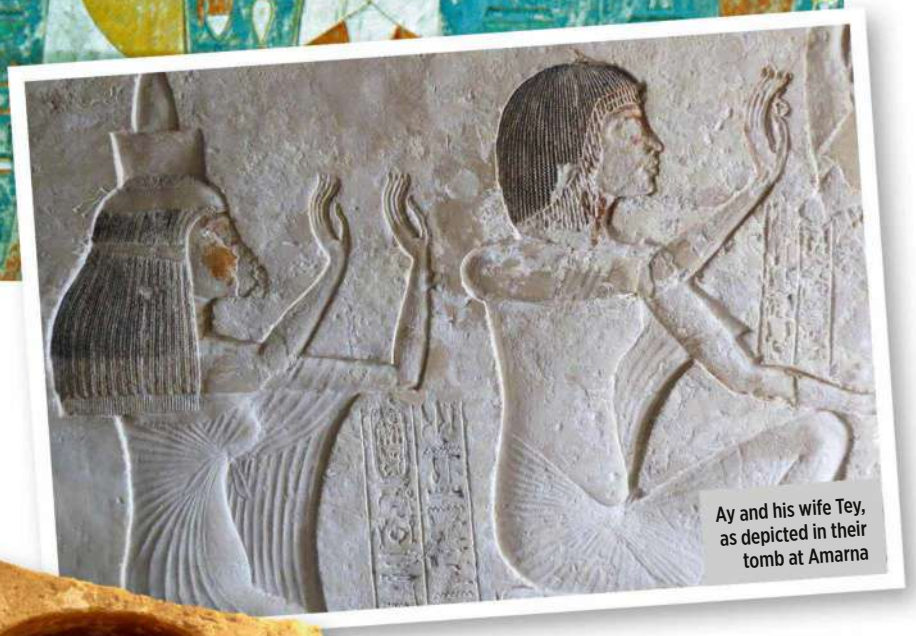


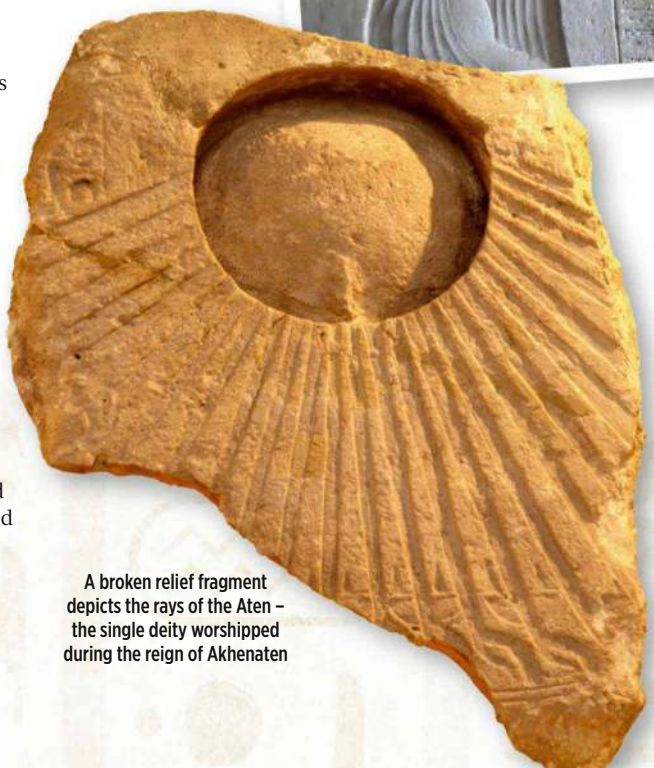
Ay and his wife Tey, as depicted in their tomb at Amarna

ABOVE: **A scene from the tomb that Horemheb made after he became king; he held the official title of 'king's deputy' under Tutankhamun**

Q: What do we know of any influential people surrounding the Boy King?

A: Two key figures appear to have been influential during Tutankhamun's reign: General Horemheb and a man named Ay. Horemheb held the official title of 'king's deputy' and is believed to have acted as the regent. On the other hand, Ay, who may have been Tutankhamun's maternal grandfather, did not hold any formal titles during the king's rule but seemed to wield considerable influence behind the scenes. Notably, Ay is depicted at the same scale as Tutankhamun in some artistic images – an unusual honour for someone who was not a king at that time.

Both men had military backgrounds, with Ay being associated with the charioteers, effectively serving as a cavalry general, and Horemheb being an infantry general. While Horemheb held the official title, Ay seems to have played a more dominant role in governance. I suspect there may have been some tension between the two, as they essentially co-managed the kingdom during Tutankhamun's reign.



A broken relief fragment depicts the rays of the Aten – the single deity worshipped during the reign of Akhenaten

Q: What else do we know of Tutankhamun and his life?

A: Tutankhamun was married to Ankhesenpaaten, who later changed her name to Ankhesenamun. She was the third daughter of Akhenaten and Nefertiti and was either Tutankhamun's full sister or half-sister, depending on the interpretation of the royal family tree. She was likely a year or two older than Tutankhamun. The couple is believed to have had two stillborn children, both females, but beyond that, details about Tutankhamun's family life are scarce.

As for his lifestyle, while there is limited direct information, it can be inferred from the practices of other Egyptian kings that he likely moved between various residences, possibly spending summers ▶

A statue discovered at Karnak, depicting Tutankhamun being protected by Amun – symbolic of Egypt's return to polytheism after the heretical rule of Akhenaten

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This scene, painted on a plastered wooden box found in Tutankhamun's tomb, depicts the young king on his chariot. It remains uncertain as to whether Tutankhamun ever went to war in person

in the cooler northern regions. Evidence suggests he spent time at the palace at Gurob, and his lifestyle might have resembled that of a medieval European king, involving hunting and travelling around the country.

Given the military nature of the 18th Dynasty, it's likely that Tutankhamun engaged in some form of military training or activities. There are depictions of him in battle against the Nubians and Syrians, but it's unclear whether these are symbolic representations or if he actually participated in military operations. The question remains whether he was actively leading his army or was merely present during military activities.

Q: What is Tutankhamun's reign is remembered for?

A: One of the most significant policy shifts during Tutankhamun's reign was the return to traditional Egyptian religion. His predecessor and likely father, Akhenaten, had initiated a radical religious transformation, focusing worship on a single deity, the sun-disc known as the Aten. Tutankhamun's birth name, Tutankhaten, even reflects this religious focus.

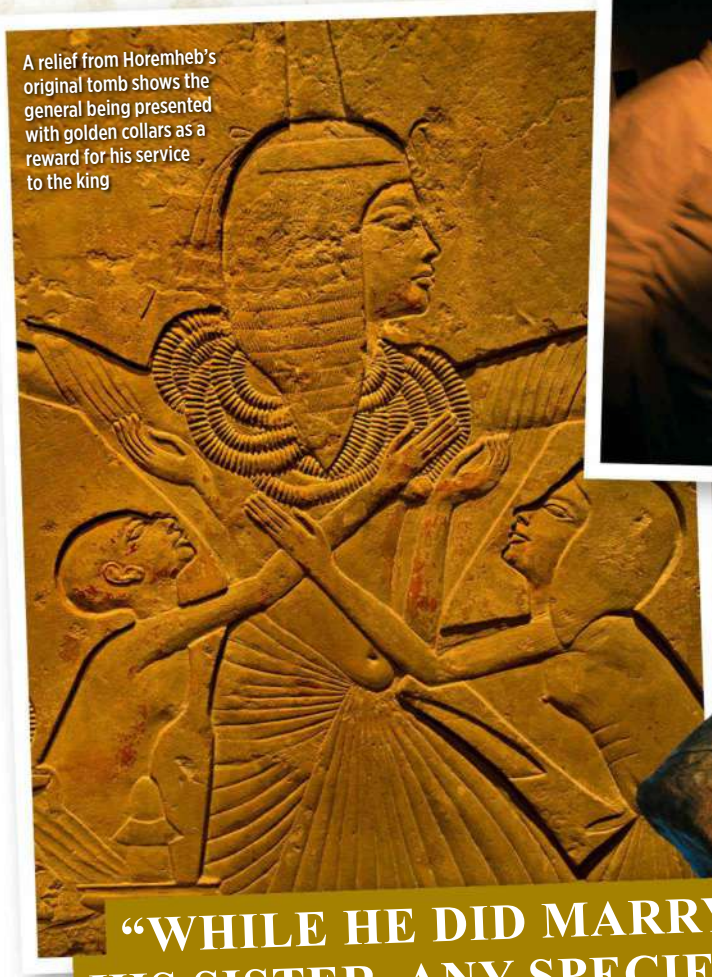
Upon ascending to the throne, Tutankhamun and his advisors faced a pivotal choice: to continue Akhenaten's monotheistic reforms or revert to traditional polytheistic practices. Initially, Tutankhamun retained his birth name and elements of Akhenaten's religious style remained evident in art and objects from early in his reign. However, the god Amun, who had been side-lined during Akhenaten's rule, began to reappear in depictions of worship.

A significant change occurred around the third year of Tutankhamun's reign, although the exact date is unclear due to missing information on key documents. At this point, a decree was issued in Tutankhamun's name, now changed to include Amun rather than Aten, effectively restoring funding and prominence to the traditional cults and multiple deities of Egypt. This marked a formal decision to abandon Akhenaten's religious revolution and return to the country's traditional religious practices.

Q: What can Tutankhamun's mummy tell us about his health?

A: The state of Tutankhamun's health is a subject of much debate among experts. Some studies suggest he may have had chronic malaria, which would have pretty much been par for the course living in Egypt at that time. There's also evidence pointing to a compound fracture in his leg that could have been fatal. CAT scans of his feet seem to show some inconsistencies; some experts believe he had a club-foot, while others argue that any deformities could have been caused by the embalming process.

The issue of inbreeding and its impact on the young pharaoh is another popular topic of discussion. While it's known



A relief from Horemheb's original tomb shows the general being presented with golden collars as a reward for his service to the king

Experts, including leading Egyptologist Dr Zahi Hawass (*in blue shirt*), carried out CAT scans of Tutankhamun's remains in 2005

Tutankhamun's mummified head. The pharaoh's remains are very poorly preserved, owing to a chemical reaction among some of the oils that (ironically) were meant to enhance the body's preservation

"WHILE HE DID MARRY HIS SISTER, ANY SPECIFIC IMPACT OF INBREEDING ON HIS HEALTH REMAINS UNCLEAR"

that Tutankhamun's parents were closely related and that he himself married his sister, any specific impact of inbreeding on his health remains unclear. It's worth noting, though, that while Tutankhamun did marry his sister, this practice was not universally followed among Egyptian royalty, despite popular belief.

Q: How likely is it that he died as a result of a compound leg fracture?

A: While it's the most conspicuous evidence we have from the mummy of something that could have caused his death, the reality is that we simply can't be sure. It's not out of the question that the king's heart just stopped, and we would never know. When human remains are close to three and a half thousand years old, even if they are well-preserved by the standards of the time, it's rare that they can offer conclusive evidence of how a person died. So, as much as we all want to know, I have to say the case remains open.

Q: Just how important really was Tutankhamun to Egyptian history?

A: Today, Tutankhamun's recognition outside the world of Egyptology is largely attributed to the allure of the treasures found in his tomb – the 'bling', if you like. However, for those who study the period, his reign holds significance as a transitional phase, marking a shift from the radical rule of Akhenaten back to a more traditional form of governance. The extent to which Tutankhamun personally influenced this transition is a matter of debate, given his young age.

He could have been a precocious child deeply involved in the political and social changes of his time, or he might have been a carefree youth more interested in food, drink and socialising. His reign is undeniably significant for its historical context, but whether Tutankhamun as an individual had a meaningful impact on these events is something we may never know for certain.

INTERVIEW: ELLIE CAWTHORNE

AIDAN DODSON is honorary full Professor of Egyptology at the University of Bristol and the author of some 25 books, including *Tutankhamun, King of Egypt: His Life and Afterlife* (AUC Press, 2023)

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This article is adapted from a discussion between Professor Aidan Dodson and Dr Chris Naunton, recorded for our series *Tutankhamun: Life, Death and Legacy*. Listen at *historyextra.com/tutankhamun-series*

DID YOU KNOW?

MUMMY DEAREST

Buried with the 'Younger Lady' we now know as Tutankhamun's mother was a mummy dubbed the 'Elder Lady'. Long thought to be Queen Tiye (Akhenaten's mother), tests on a lock of Tiye's hair found in the Boy King's tomb proved, in 2010, it was her.

A painted 'mannequin' of Tutankhamun, which was perhaps used to display the king's jewellery or robes

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

THE BOY BEHIND THE MASK

Tutankhamun is the most famous pharaoh of ancient Egypt. But who was he, and what sort of world was he born into?

Ask most people to name a figure from ancient Egypt, and there's a high chance that they will say Tutankhamun. However, prior to the discovery of his lavish tomb in the early 20th century, virtually all knowledge of the so-called Boy King and his brief reign had been lost to history. The reason for this obscurity lies in the controversial era through which he lived. Born during the New Kingdom (c1550–1075 BC), a period when Egyptian civilisation reached its zenith both culturally and territorially, Tutankhamun was a member of the ruling 18th Dynasty, a bloodline that boasted some of Egypt's most renowned rulers, including the female pharaoh Hatshepsut and his grandfather, Amenhotep III.

Despite this impressive lineage, the Boy King entered a world where the traditions that had defined Egyptian civilisation for centuries were in disarray. Prior to his birth, the pharaoh known as Akhenaten had banished most of Egypt's extensive pantheon of gods and goddesses, replacing them with the worship of a new solar deity known as the Aten (meaning 'sun-disc'). Akhenaten persecuted the powerful cult of Amun based in Thebes and moved the royal court to an area of Middle Egypt unconnected to any other divinity. This new capital city, known today as Tell el-Amarna, was named Akhetaten ('horizon of the Aten') and became the centre of Akhenaten's revolution. It was here that the young Tutankhamun was likely born in the middle of the 14th century BC.

But Tutankhamun was not his birth name at all – rather, he was originally called Tutankhaten (meaning 'the living image of the Aten') in honour of the new state god. The precise nature of his family history is disputed by Egyptologists, though most accept Akhenaten as his probable father, and in 2010, DNA analysis confirmed that an unidentified mummy discovered in the Valley of the Kings known as the 'Younger Lady' was Tutankhamun's mother. The DNA evidence also shows that Tutankhamun's parents were either full siblings or the third couple in a line of successive first cousin marriages.

BELOW LEFT: **The stone balustrade of a staircase showing Tutankhamun's likely father, Akhenaten, worshipping the Aten – the single deity at the centre of his religious reforms**

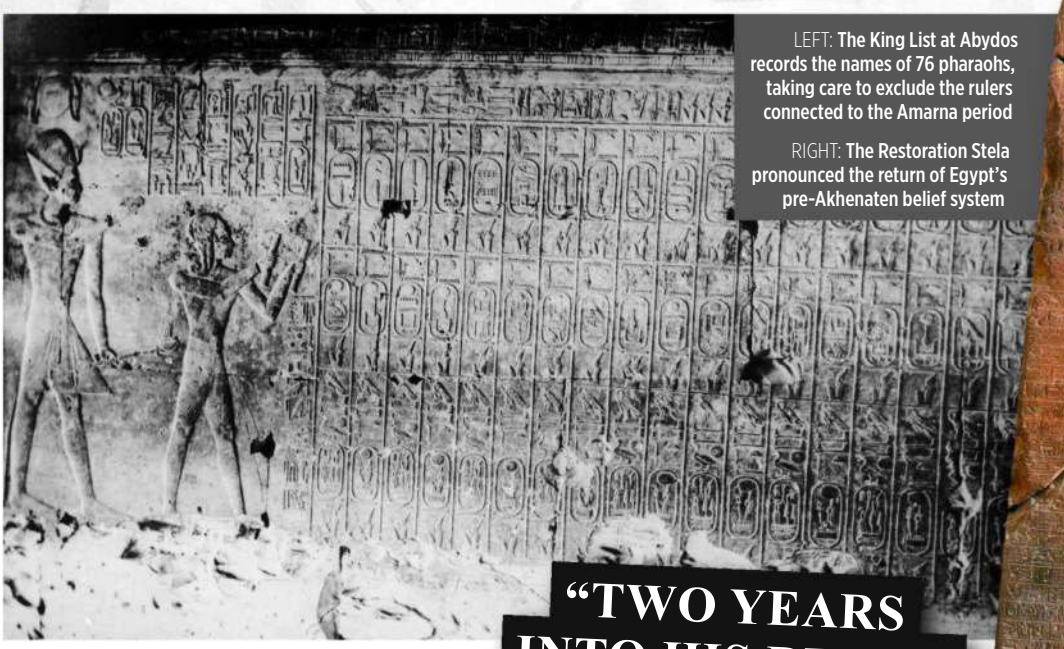
BELOW CENTRE: **The world-famous bust of Akhenaten's wife, Nefertiti, at the Neues Museum, Berlin. Did she take the throne alongside her husband and his son?**

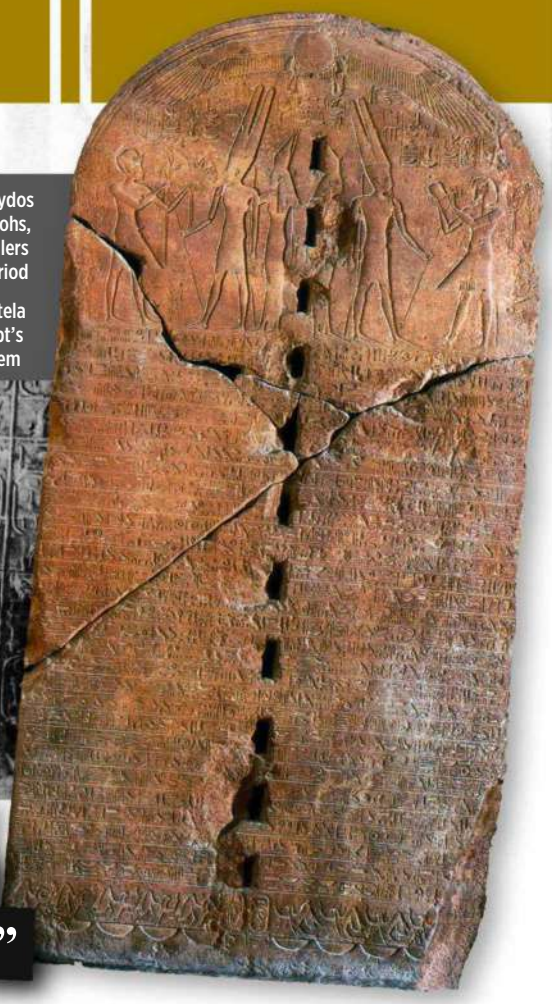
BELOW RIGHT: **The mummified remains of the 'Younger Lady' since identified as Tutankhamun's mother**

CHILD OF THE SUN

That so little is known, confusing or unanswerable about Tutankhaten's childhood and the so-called Amarna period more generally is due to subsequent pharaohs' censure of Akhenaten's religious changes. Indeed, among the 76 names recorded in a list of pharaohs carved on a wall in the temple of Seti I at Abydos, those immediately associated with Amarna are absent. Nevertheless, the Egyptians' tendency ▶

"HE WAS ORIGINALLY CALLED TUTANKHATEN IN HONOUR OF THE NEW STATE GOD"





LEFT: **The King List at Abydos records the names of 76 pharaohs, taking care to exclude the rulers connected to the Amarna period**

RIGHT: **The Restoration Stela pronounced the return of Egypt's pre-Akhenaten belief system**

"TWO YEARS INTO HIS REIGN, THE YOUNG KING RENAMED HIMSELF"

◀ to recycle the building blocks used by their ancestors in construction projects inadvertently preserved fragments of this forbidden history. One such remnant, found across the Nile from Tell el-Amarna, gives us our earliest mention of the Boy King, extolling "the King's Son of his body, his beloved, Tutankhaten".

Akhenaten's reign ended in its 17th year, but the sequence of events that immediately followed are extremely murky, and the material found in Tutankhamun's tomb fails to cast light on the circumstances by which he came to the throne. What we do know is that at the very end of his reign, Akhenaten took as a co-ruler a woman known as Neferneferuaten. As this was part of the full name of Akhenaten's wife, Nefertiti, many Egyptologists believe that Neferneferuaten was indeed Nefertiti herself. Neferneferuaten reigned for at least three years, during which time the worship of Amun was once again permitted. It is possible that these three years overlapped with the first part of Tutankhamun's reign, with Neferneferuaten starting her career as Akhenaten's co-ruler, and then continuing as Tutankhamun's.

There is also another king known from the around the end of Akhenaten's reign, named Smenkhkare, who was once generally thought to be the same person as Neferneferuaten, although only one or two Egyptologists still think this. While some propose that he reigned on his own after Akhenaten, others believe he was only ever Akhenaten's co-ruler, preceding Neferneferuaten. Again, the evidence from the period is difficult to interpret, with many different theories among Egyptologists.

CENTRE: **A cartouche displaying the Boy King's original name, Tutankhaten**

BOTTOM: **The pharaoh depicted with his wife (and full or half-sister) Ankhesenamun**

In any case, probably three years after Tutankhaten came to the throne aged eight or nine, Akhetaten was abandoned as the capital city of Egypt and Memphis once more became the principal seat of the government, while Thebes was reinstated as Egypt's religious centre. The age-old pantheon was restored, and Akhenaten's religious experiment shunned. Two years into his reign, the young king renamed himself Tutankhamun ('the living image of Amun') and must have been guided by advisors eager to distance themselves from his predecessor's 'heresy'.

A NEW DAWN

For all the splendour of his tomb, very little is known about Tutankhamun's reign. What is clear is that the resurgence of Egypt's religious orthodoxy had a profound and lasting impact and distinguishes him as a pivotal, albeit elusive, figure in Egyptian history. This event was commemorated on the so-called Restoration Stela, installed within Karnak Temple, and later usurped by his successor, Horemheb. His queen was his full or half-sister Ankhesenpaaten (later renamed Ankhesenamun), daughter of Akhenaten and Nefertiti.

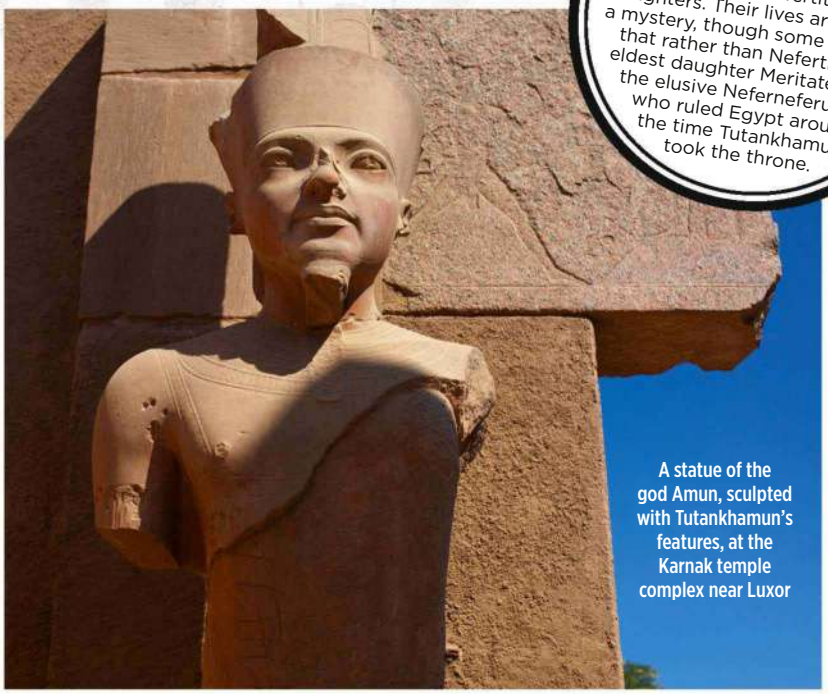
Although Tutankhamun ruled for approximately 10 years, his short reign witnessed a concerted effort across Egypt to reverse Akhenaten's reforms and repair the kingdom's infrastructure. His predecessor's Atenist temples within Thebes' sprawling Karnak temple complex began to be dismantled, while its precincts were adorned with statues and depictions of the new pharaoh. These typically portrayed the young king in the company of the god Amun, as well as other deities bearing Tutankhamun's likeness. Part of the temple's famous

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X3

DID YOU KNOW?

FAMILY TIES

Akhenaten and Nefertiti had six daughters. Their lives are largely a mystery, though some theorise that rather than Nefertiti, her eldest daughter Meritaten was the elusive Neferneferuaten who ruled Egypt around the time Tutankhamun took the throne.



A statue of the god Amun, sculpted with Tutankhamun's features, at the Karnak temple complex near Luxor

Avenue of Sphinxes, featuring a series of ram-headed sculptures, was also laid out during his reign.

In addition, a number of works left unfinished from before Akhenaten's time were finally decorated or completed under the young king's patronage, while limestone lintels and other objects bearing Tutankhamun's name have since been found in the vicinity of the pyramids at Giza. Artefacts naming Tutankhamun have even been unearthed in places as far apart as Palestine (specifically at Tell el-Ajjul in the Gaza Strip) and deep in modern-day Sudan, where the king was worshipped as a god, signifying the reign's consolidation of Egypt's hinterland following the long negligence of the Amarna years.

DEATH AND OBSCURITY

Tutankhamun assumed the pharaonic template honed by his 18th Dynasty ancestors. Regarded as a living intermediary between Egypt's gods and its people, he sat at the top of a complex bureaucratic machine that spanned the royal estate, the priesthood, the military, civil government and the administration of Egypt's vassals. Having come to the throne as a child, he was assisted by individuals who had risen to prominence during the Amarna period. Chief among these was Ay, who some speculate to have been Nefertiti's father, and who served as Tutankhamun's most trusted and influential advisor. After the Boy King's untimely death, Ay became pharaoh in his own right and reigned for about four years.

Another powerful figure at Tutankhamun's court was Horemheb, the commander-in-chief of the army. Scenes within his abandoned tomb at the necropolis of Saqqara depict several military campaigns that took place during Tutankhamun's reign. These indicate that this era saw efforts to reassert Egypt's geopolitical position, but it remains uncertain if the young pharaoh himself ever led a military expedition. Following Ay's death, Horemheb also acceded to the throne and retrospectively backdated the launch of his own reign with the conclusion of Amenhotep III's, some three decades before.

Tutankhamun is believed to have died around the age of 19 from unknown causes. With work on his intended tomb (perhaps the site known as WV23, later used by Ay) within the Valley of the Kings unfinished, the king's premature death meant that an unusually modest burial place for that of a pharaoh (KV62) had to be procured instead. Among the treasures interred alongside him were vestiges of the tumultuous times he had lived through, such as a golden throne featuring a scene of Tutankhamun and Ankhesenamun enjoying an intimate moment beneath the rays of the Aten. The most poignant thing found in the tomb were the tiny, mummified remains of two stillborn daughters – a tragic coda to Tutankhamun's life and reign.

Over four years later, Horemheb oversaw a nationwide effort to obliterate all trace of the Amarna 'heresy' and those connected to it. As the 18th Dynasty gave way to the 19th, the eradication of Akhenaten's legacy continued apace. Meanwhile, Horemheb usurped and took credit for the building works and religious restoration promulgated during Tutankhamun's reign. Although traces of this mysterious young pharaoh would come to light millennia later, the world would remain oblivious to Tutankhamun until 1922.

WORDS: DANNY BIRD

TOP: **A scene depicting Horemheb, who served as commander-in-chief of the Boy King's army, on a wall inside his unused Saqqara tomb**

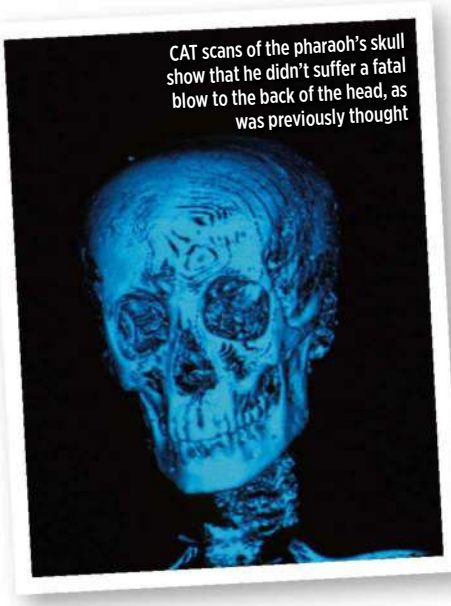
BOTTOM: **The head of Tutankhamun's mummy on display inside his tomb within the Valley of the Kings**

HOW DID HE DIE?

There are many theories about how the king met his premature end – some perhaps more credible than others

MURDER?

The idea that Tutankhamun was assassinated has long held sway on account of his association with the 'heretical' religious changes introduced by his predecessor, and probable father, Akhenaten. This murder theory appeared to gain some credence when, in 1968, an X-ray of Tutankhamun's mummy revealed loose bone fragments in the back of his skull, indicating he had suffered a deliberate, fatal blow to the head. However, in 2005, CAT scans of the mummy revealed that the damage was likely caused post-mortem and this particular theory has now been dismissed.



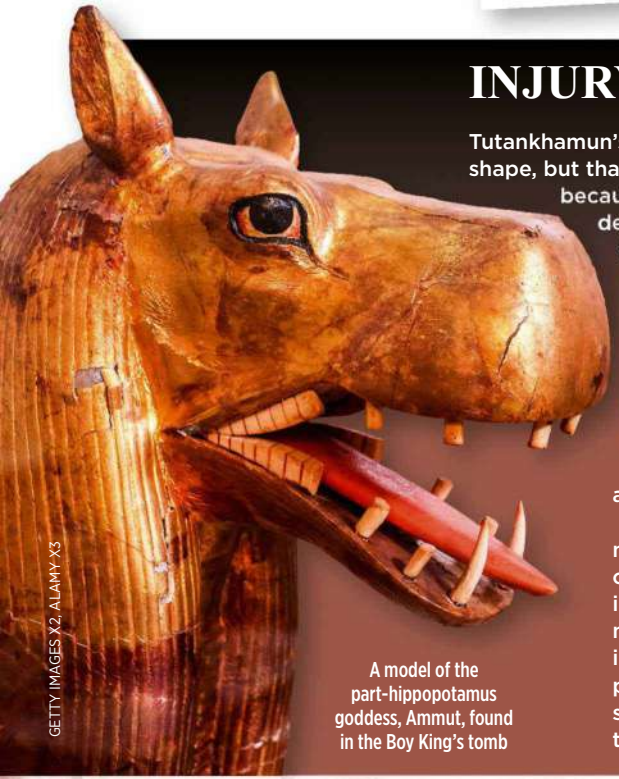
CAT scans of the pharaoh's skull show that he didn't suffer a fatal blow to the back of the head, as was previously thought

The Nile Valley was not only the cradle of the Egyptian civilisation, but an ancient breeding ground for malaria-carrying mosquitoes

MALARIA?

In 2010, DNA testing on the remains of the Boy King and some of his closest relatives found that they suffered from the most severe form of malaria, *malaria tropica*. Living along the waters of the Nile, several millennia before the advent of modern antimalarial drugs, it is perhaps not surprising that mosquitoes wreaked such havoc.

Interestingly, the same study also suggested that the presence of seeds, fruit and leaves inside Tutankhamun's tomb point to the idea that he was buried with an 'afterlife pharmacy', designed to treat his chronic ailments in perpetuity. Equally, however, they could have just been 'snacks for eternity'!



A model of the part-hippopotamus goddess, Ammut, found in the Boy King's tomb

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X3

INJURY?

Tutankhamun's mummy is in a bad shape, but that's not necessarily because he suffered a violent death. A cavity in his torso, for instance, is believed to be the result of his chest being cut away and stolen in the 20th century – not because he was the victim of a chariot crash or a hippopotamus attack, as suggested in the past.

The only evidence of a major injury is a possible compound fracture in his left leg (which may have led to a fatal infection), but it is also possible that he died of something that left no trace on the body.

GENETICS?

Tutankhamun's incestuous parentage has led to suggestions that he suffered from genetic disorders that severely impacted his health. It has been suggested that depictions of the king hunting while seated, and the presence of more than 100 walking-sticks in the tomb, point to mobility issues. Yet other Egyptians are also shown hunting while seated, and walking-sticks were status symbols, found in large numbers in other tombs.

Others have argued that there is evidence of a painful bone disorder in his right foot, and that his left foot may have been clubbed – though the latter may have accidentally been caused during the mummification process after he had died.

WORDS: DANNY BIRD

Tutankhamun's feet show possible evidence of a bone disorder

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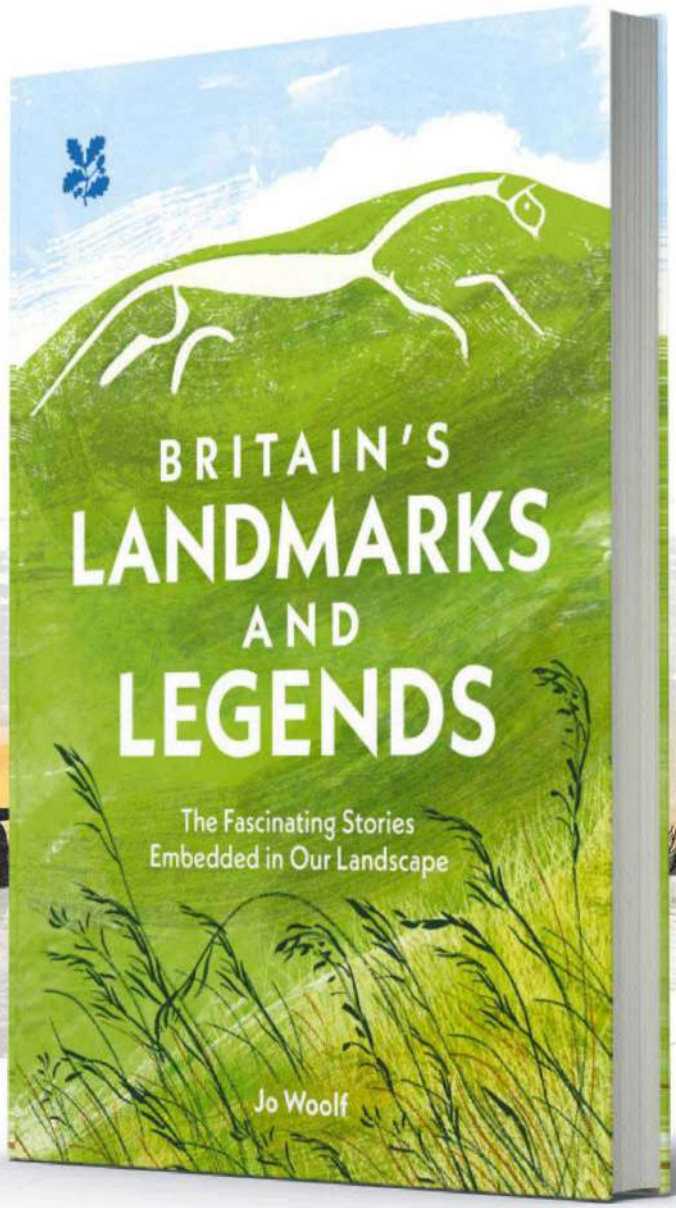

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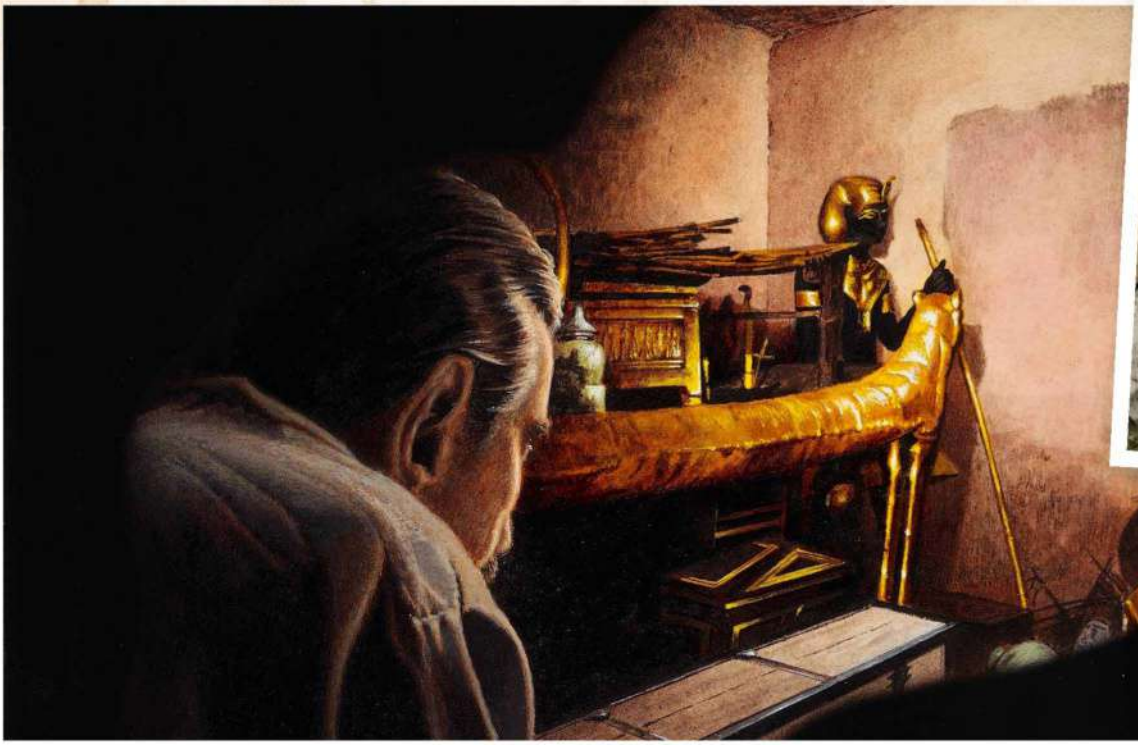


ABOVE: **A hand-tinted image shows Carter and a colleague opening the pharaoh's series of nested coffins**

LEFT: **Carter depicted peering into the tomb, where he was greeted by the "glint of gold"**

UNEARTHING THE BOY KING

The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb is often regarded as one of the greatest archaeological finds of all time. But how did Howard Carter and his team make their breakthrough?

At about 2pm on Sunday 26 November 1922, a moustachioed Englishman plunged a candle into a jet-black chamber and was greeted by the most extraordinary sight. Glinting in the glow of the flickering flame was gold – gold that had lain undisturbed for more than three millennia. "Can you see anything?" came a voice from behind him. Peering into the darkness, the Englishman – Howard Carter – replied: "Yes, it is wonderful."

Carter was right. It *was* wonderful. For what the 48-year-old archaeologist and his companions had just unearthed was the most extraordinary discovery in the history of archaeology: the tomb of the pharaoh Tutankhamun.

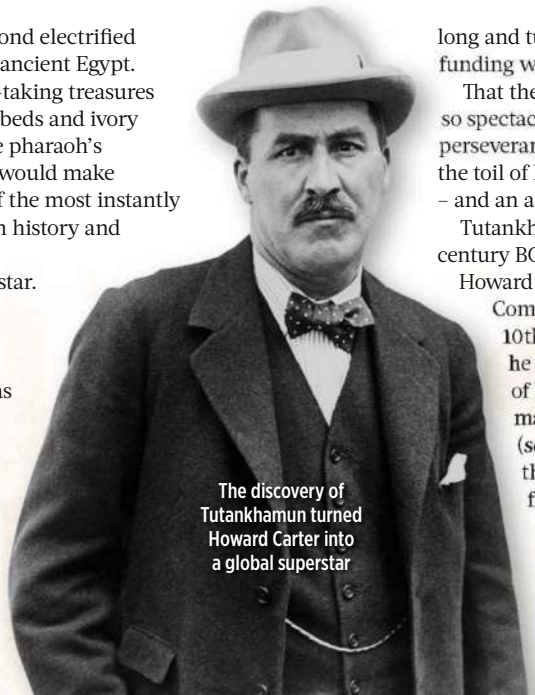
Over the following months, what emerged from that darkened chamber and three rooms beyond electrified global fascination in ancient Egypt. A plethora of breath-taking treasures – from gold-covered beds and ivory gaming boards to the pharaoh's iconic death mask – would make Tutankhamun one of the most instantly recognisable rulers in history and turn Carter into an archaeological superstar.

Yet what makes this story even more extraordinary is that Carter's discovery was achieved very much against the odds. Until the events of November 1922, Tutankhamun was a bit-part pharaoh in ancient Egypt's long and turbulent history – and Carter's funding was about to be withdrawn.

That their fortunes were reversed so spectacularly was the result of the perseverance of numerous archaeologists, the toil of hundreds of Egyptian workers – and an aristocratic patron.

Tutankhamun was born in the 14th century BC, some 33 centuries before Howard Carter discovered his tomb. Coming to the throne before his 10th birthday, he was dead before he was out of his teens. The cause of his death is uncertain – and many theories have been posited (*see page 32*) – but it was perhaps the result of a compound fracture of his left leg.

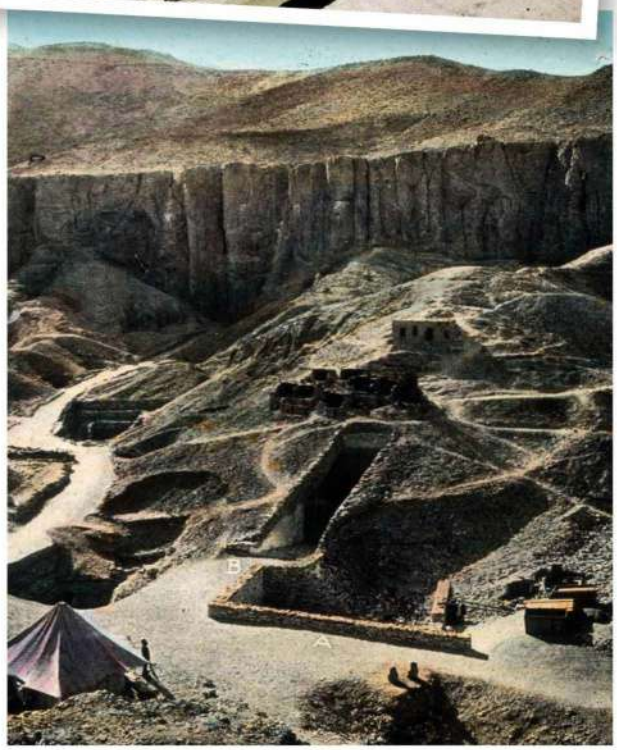
Tutankhamun's life was short and his tomb was – in pharaohs' terms, at least



The discovery of Tutankhamun turned Howard Carter into a global superstar

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X1

George Herbert, Lord Carnarvon, was Carter's main backer – but he nearly pulled the plug on the project



ABOVE: **A 1920s image showing the central portion of the Valley of the Kings. The entrance to Tutankhamun's tomb is situated behind the low wall in the foreground**

RIGHT: **A statue of Akhenaten, the king's likely father**

was outshone by longer-lived, more accomplished pharaohs. He seemed destined to be all but lost to history.

But not quite. The French and British invasions of Egypt paved the way for waves of western archaeologists to descend on the country from the 19th century. At the dawn of the 20th century, one of these men, a retired American lawyer called Theodore Davis, would make an immeasurable contribution to the discovery of the tomb. During his excavations of the Valley of the Kings, Davis uncovered a number of intact tombs, from around 3,300 years ago, containing a trove of treasures. These included a mummy speculated to be that of Akhenaten, the king's likely father, and what proved to be the leftovers of Tutankhamun's funeral feast.

ACTING ON INSTINCT

The search for Tutankhamun's own tomb was now well and truly on. But Davis wouldn't see it through to the end. In 1914, close to death, he gave up his rights to dig the Valley of the Kings. Enter Howard Carter.

Born in London in 1874, Carter, a talented artist, had first travelled to Egypt as a 17-year-old to record the artwork being discovered in the country's tombs and temples. He soon developed a fierce passion for Egyptology, but had to look on with increasing frustration as other archaeologists acquired the rights to excavate the country's burial chambers.

As he relinquished his own rights to explore the Valley of the Kings, Theodore Davis had voiced his suspicions, supported by most Egyptologists, that the area had now yielded all of its ancient treasures. Howard Carter disagreed. He was convinced that Tutankhamun's tomb was still there, waiting to be located, perhaps under a spot covered by ancient debris. And now, working for a wealthy patron – the aristocratic George Herbert, Lord Carnarvon – Carter had the funds to act on his instincts.

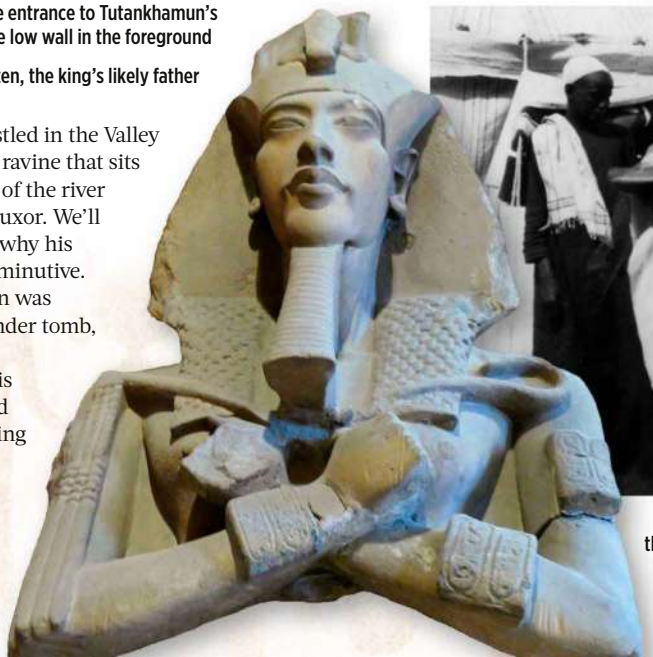
GRINDING TO A HALT

So why did it take Carter a further nine years to reach his prize? Well, first there was the small matter of World War I, which brought excavations to a halt, and saw Lord Carnarvon's stately home, Highclere Castle, turned into a military hospital. Then there were the tens of thousands of tonnes of waste left by previous excavators littering the valley floor. Once Carter was able to restart excavations at the end of 1917, many Egyptian workers were given the backbreaking task of removing the debris with little more than picks and hoes.

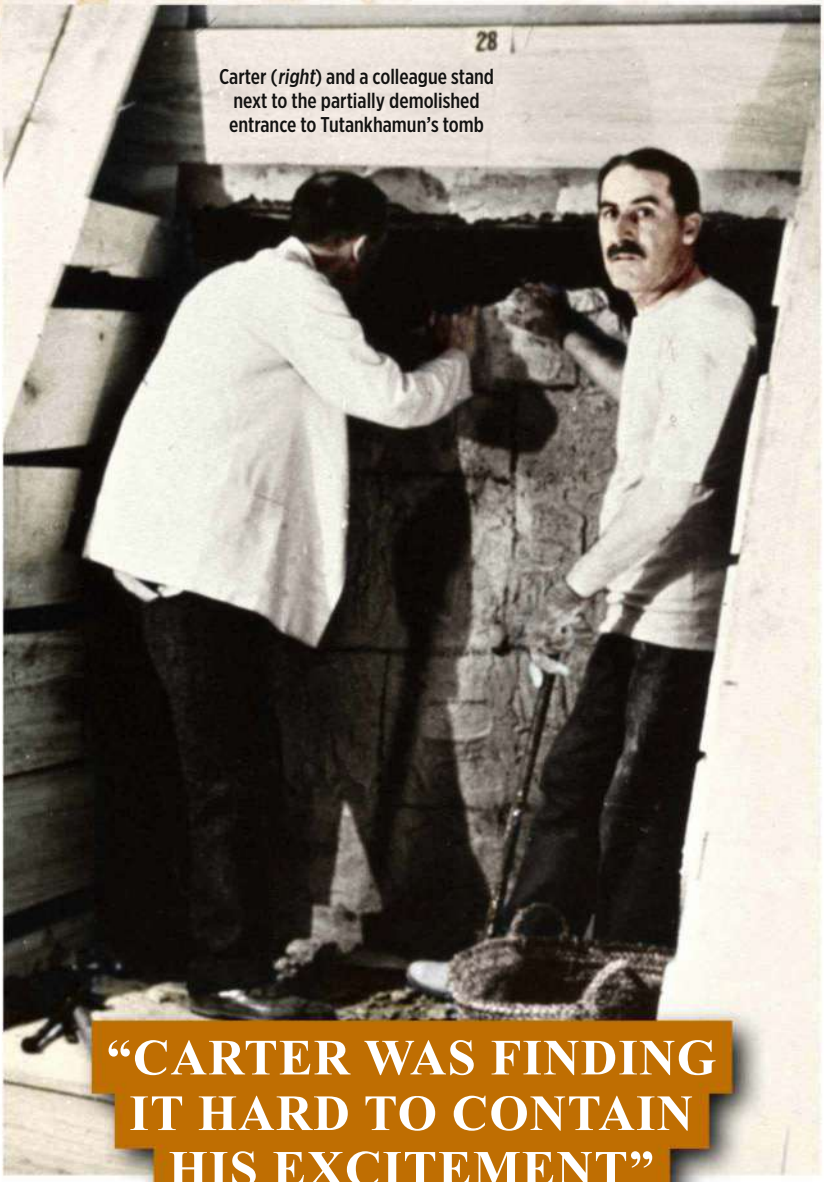
Then a breakthrough, followed by a hiatus. In early 1918, the labourers uncovered the remains of ancient workers' huts, showing that the area had not been touched since the 13th or 12th centuries BC. Yet Carter chose not to investigate further, since additional work in the area would make it difficult for tourists to visit an adjacent tomb, and instead spent the next five seasons immersing himself in other archaeological projects.

In 1922, with Lord Carnarvon's interest waning as no new tombs had been found, he summoned Carter to Highclere to announce that he intended to pull the plug on the project. Luckily, Carter talked his patron round, and – ▶

– unusually small, nestled in the Valley of the Kings, a barren ravine that sits on the opposite shore of the river Nile from the city of Luxor. We'll probably never know why his burial place was so diminutive. Perhaps Tutankhamun was building another, grander tomb, but died before it was completed. Perhaps his successor, Ay, swapped tombs with him, putting the young king in the tomb Ay had started for himself. Either way, Tutankhamun



Carter (*seated*) with a digging party, 1907. Unlike some of his contemporaries, the Egyptologist believed that the Valley of the Kings still had secrets to give up



Carter (*right*) and a colleague stand next to the partially demolished entrance to Tutankhamun's tomb

"CARTER WAS FINDING IT HARD TO CONTAIN HIS EXCITEMENT"

perhaps spurred into action by the prospect of Carnarvon's withdrawal – ordered work to begin again at the site of the ancient labourers' huts that October. It wouldn't take long for that work to yield results.

Carter arrived at the dig on the morning of 4 November to be told by one of his foremen, the Egyptian Ahmed Gerigar, that the team had discovered a step cut into the valley floor. Further excavation revealed that the step was part of a descending staircase, which ended at a rubble wall that blocked further access.

"It was a thrilling moment for an excavator, quite alone save his native staff of workmen, to suddenly find himself, after so many years of toilsome work, on the verge of what looked like a magnificent discovery – an untouched tomb," wrote Carter the following day. He was finding it hard to contain his excitement, but knew he had to summon his patron from his Highclere home 2,500 miles away before proceeding further. "At last have made wonderful discovery in valley," Carter wrote to Carnarvon. "A magnificent tomb with seals intact. Re-covered same for your arrival. Congratulations."

THE GLINT OF GOLD

Just over two weeks later, Carnarvon stood beside Carter in the Valley of the Kings as the blocked doorway was dismantled to reveal a tunnel leading to another doorway. It was here, on the afternoon of Sunday 26th, that Carter and Carnarvon first peered into the royal tomb itself.

"At first I could see nothing, the hot air escaping from the chamber causing the candle flame to flicker," Carter recalled. "But presently, as my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues and gold – everywhere the glint of gold." Tutankhamun's remarkable 3,000-year journey from near anonymity to global icon was complete.

WORDS: SPENCER MIZEN

THE BOY WHO HELPED FIND THE BOY KING

Without Hussein Abd el-Rassul, the tomb might never have been discovered

Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon's names will forever be synonymous with the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. But what about Hussein Abd el-Rassul? Hussein Abd el-Rassul? It's hardly a household name, is it? But it could be that, without el-Rassul's involvement in the dig at the Valley of the Kings at the end of 1922, Tutankhamun's tomb would still lay undiscovered today.

Why? A series of photographs depicting the treasures of the tomb – taken by Harry Burton, the official photographer for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's excavation team in Egypt – offers a clue. One of these images shows a boy aged nine to 12 wearing around his neck a heavy pectoral, chain and counterpoise featuring a series of large scarab beetles carved from lapis lazuli.

That boy was purportedly el-Rassul, and he was employed by Carter to bring water by donkey from the Nile to the dig site in the Valley of the Kings. The water jars had pointed bases, so shallow holes had to be dug in the ground to stop them toppling over. It was while he was digging such a hole that el-Rassul revealed that flat stone step in the floor of the valley that led Carter to Tutankhamun's tomb.

Perhaps, then, el-Rassul was wearing this priceless artefact as a reward for the role he played in the world's greatest archaeological discovery.

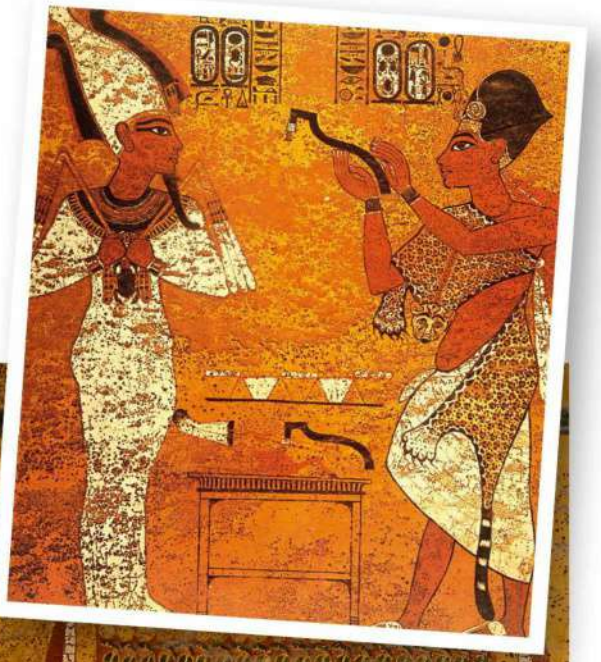
A photograph by Harry Burton shows the boy purported to be Hussein Abd el-Rassul. Was the elaborate ornament around his neck a reward from Carter?

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

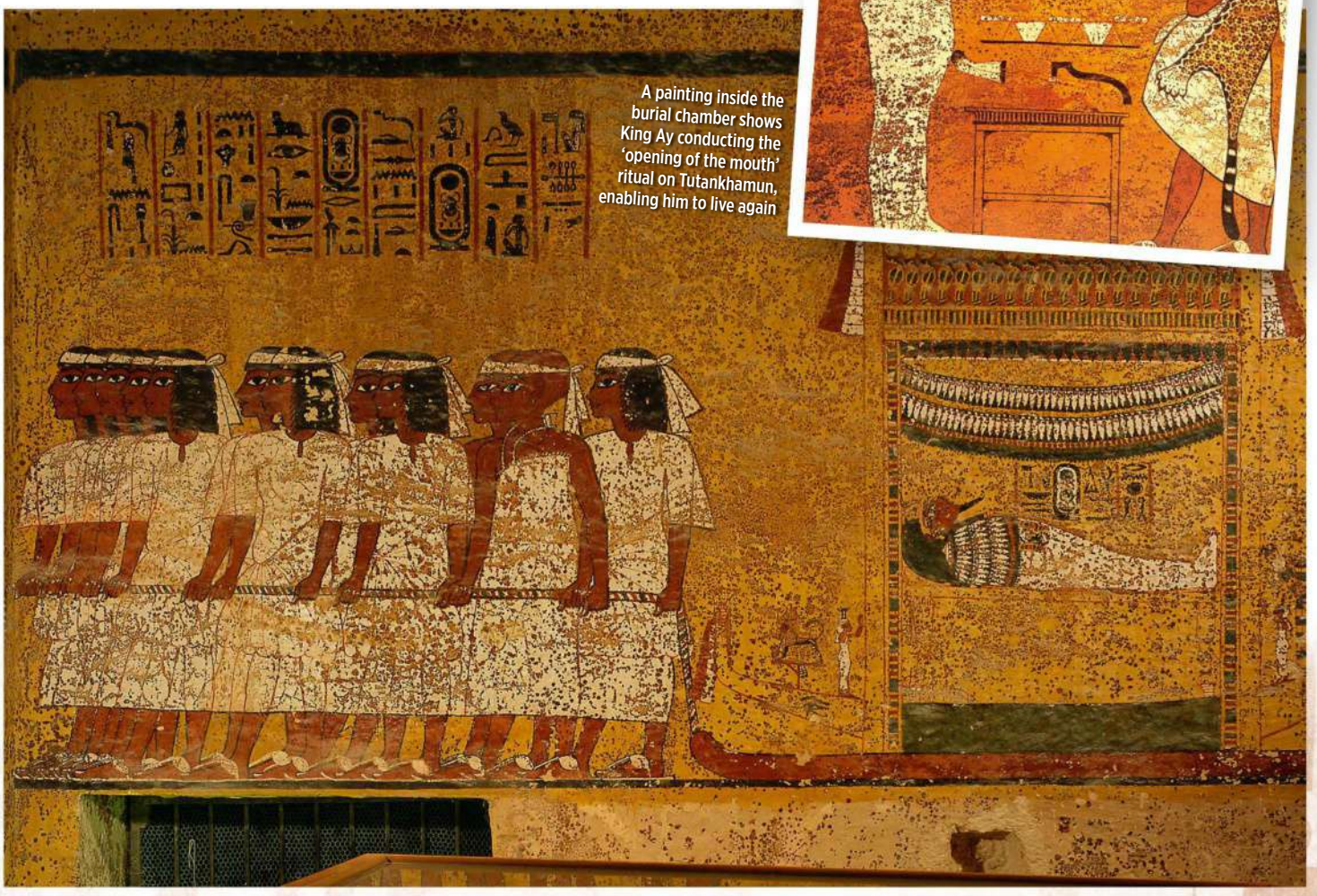
TUTANKHAMUN'S FORGOTTEN WOMEN

What can the treasures found inside the Boy King's tomb tell us about the women in his life? **Professor Joyce Tyldesley** reviews the evidence – and shares some intriguing discoveries

Tutankhamun may have died more than 3,300 years ago, but it is still possible to 'attend' the pharaoh's funeral via the painted scenes discovered inside his burial chamber. On the east wall we see the mummified king lying in a coffin on top of a bier on board a boat, which is itself standing on a wooden sled. Twelve of Egypt's highest-ranking dignitaries, all dressed in white linen, have assembled to drag the funerary sled across the desert to the Valley of the Kings. Meanwhile, on the north wall of the chamber, the funeral procession has reached the tomb, with Tutankhamun's mummy propped upright and his successor, King Ay, dressed in a priestly leopard skin to conduct the rituals that will allow the dead king to live again. There is one key omission from these scenes, however.



A painting inside the burial chamber shows King Ay conducting the 'opening of the mouth' ritual on Tutankhamun, enabling him to live again



Another painting, located on the chamber's east wall, depicts 12 high-ranking dignitaries dragging Tutankhamun's funerary sled towards the Valley of the Kings

GETTY IMAGES X1, ALAMY X2

Nowhere in these paintings do we see Tutankhamun's widow, Ankhesenamun (formerly also Ankhesenpaaten). If we want to learn more about the woman who supported her husband in life and death, we instead need to take a closer look at some of Tutankhamun's 5,000 grave goods.

A FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP

The 'Little Golden Shrine', a doored box covered in thick gold foil, is one of Tutankhamun's most enigmatic grave goods. A series of engraved panels on the golden exterior shows the king and queen together. Ankhesenamun fastens a collar round her husband's neck, receives water that he pours into her cupped hand, and supplies him with arrows as he shoots ducks in the marshes. Howard Carter, who led the discovery of the tomb in November 1922, believed that these scenes reflected the daily life of the king and queen, with Ankhesenamun playing a minor role: "The dominant note is that of friendly relationship between the husband and the wife."

A century later, with a far better understanding of the complexities of Egyptian royal art, we interpret these scenes as a reflection of Ankhesenamun's religious power as she assumes the role of a priest to prepare her husband for his coronation and the New Year ceremonies that will follow.

Ankhesenamun is equally prominent on the decorated back panel of Tutankhamun's golden throne. Here we see the royal couple inside a floral pavilion. Ankhesenamun stands before her husband and extends her hand towards him. She wears an elaborately pleated robe, a short wig and a complicated crown incorporating cow horns, a sun-disc and two tall feathers. Tutankhamun, dressed in a pleated kilt, tall crown and colourful jewellery, sits in an elaborate chair with his feet on a footstool. At first sight, this too appears to be a charming domestic scene, but in fact we are watching an anointing ritual with Ankhesenamun acting as priest.

GREAT RESPONSIBILITY

Ankhesenamun was the third daughter born to the 'heretic pharaoh' Akhenaten and his consort Nefertiti. As it is highly likely that Akhenaten was Tutankhamun's father, she was either her husband's sister or half-sister. While Tutankhamun's early years are shrouded in mystery, we can follow Ankhesenamun's childhood via the art commissioned by her father. We see her as a naked baby clambering over her mother's shoulder, and as a growing young girl attending various state functions with her parents. It seems likely that she had married Tutankhamun by the time that he inherited the throne. Egypt was now ruled by an eight-year-old king and his teenage sister-wife.

As the queen consort, Ankhesenamun took precedence over all her husband's other wives. She was an essential component of her husband's rule, with the king and queen forming a partnership that would serve the gods and ensure that Egypt prospered. Her most obvious duty was to support Tutankhamun and provide him with a family which would ideally include a male heir. However, she was more than a baby-machine and her responsibilities were varied and complex. She might contribute to diplomatic correspondence, perform important female-based religious rituals, and even serve as her husband's deputy. A few consorts are known to have ruled Egypt temporarily, acting on behalf of an absent husband or an infant son.

The 'Little Golden Shrine' is covered in engraved scenes, three of which are shown in detail on the right

1: **Ankhesenamun helps Tutankhamun while out hunting**

2: **The pharaoh pours water into his wife's cupped hand**

3: **Ankhesenamun fastens a collar around her husband's neck**

A panel on Tutankhamun's throne shows the king and queen in a floral pavilion

PROTECTING THE KING

If the Little Golden Shrine and the golden throne confirm Ankhesenamun's role in supporting Tutankhamun's living kingship, his quartzite sarcophagus hints that she also had the power to support him in death.

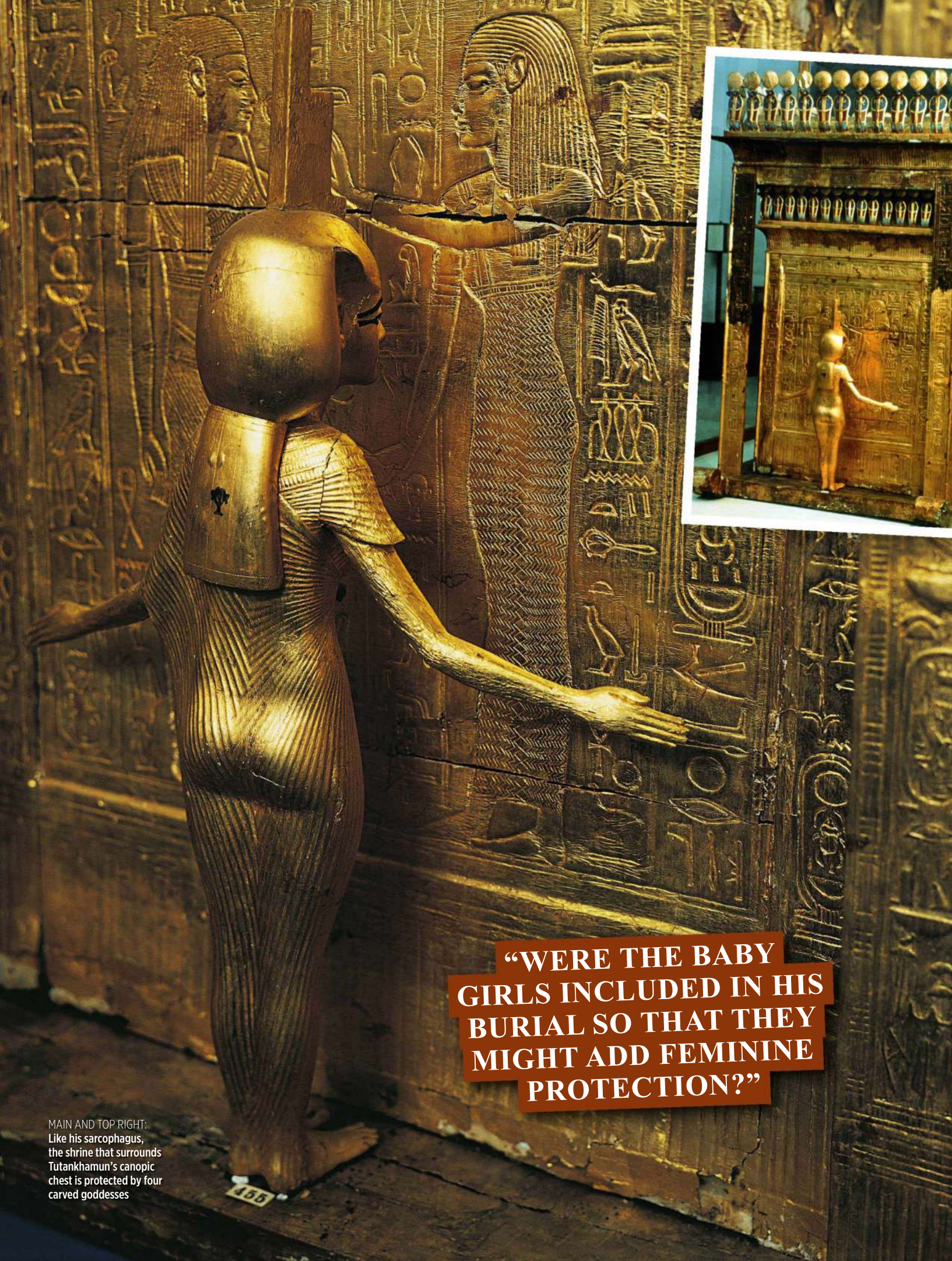
The sarcophagus trough, which is carved with funerary texts, is protected by four carved goddesses, one standing at each corner, looking towards Tutankhamun's head. Isis, Nephthys, Serket and Neith extend their winged arms to encircle the sarcophagus and in so doing eternally embrace and

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X3

ABOVE: An illustration depicts the pharaoh's sarcophagus – complete with its outer shrines – as it may have appeared after completion

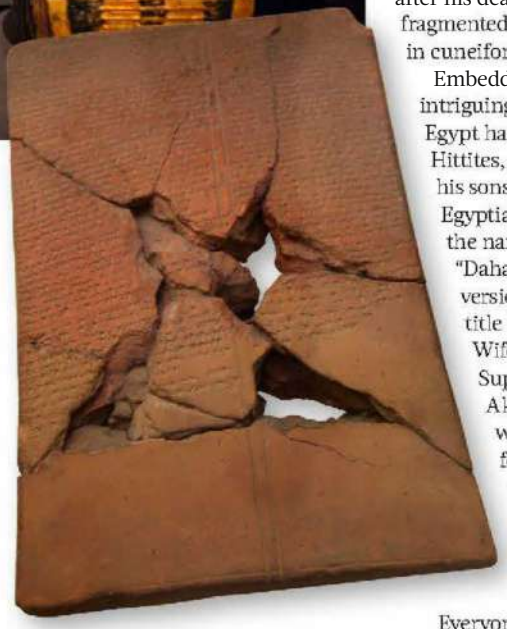
MAIN: The corners of the sarcophagus feature depictions of four winged goddesses, including a carving of Nephthys, shown up close here

"THE GODDESSES EXTEND THEIR WINGED ARMS TO ENCIRCLE THE SARCOPHAGUS AND ETERNALLY EMBRACE THE KING"



"WERE THE BABY GIRLS INCLUDED IN HIS BURIAL SO THAT THEY MIGHT ADD FEMININE PROTECTION?"

MAIN AND TOP RIGHT:
Like his sarcophagus, the shrine that surrounds Tutankhamun's canopic chest is protected by four carved goddesses



protect the dead Tutankhamun. The same four goddesses surround and protect the canopic chest which houses Tutankhamun's preserved viscera.

Close examination has revealed that the four sarcophagus goddesses originally had human arms rather than feathered wings. Initially carved as women, or as one woman four times, they were subsequently re-carved as goddesses, presumably to reflect Tutankhamun's evolving religious views. Here we can draw a parallel with Akhenaten's smashed granite sarcophagus trough, fragments of which have been recovered from his looted tomb. These show that Akhenaten intended to be protected in death by four versions of his consort Nefertiti, one standing at each corner of his sarcophagus. It is possible that Tutankhamun's sarcophagus base was recycled from an earlier burial. But if it was indeed purpose-made, we can deduce that he originally intended to spend eternity in Ankhesenamun's protective arms.

ROYAL DAUGHTERS?

Ankhesenamun is not the only female to offer her protection to the dead king. The Treasury, the modern name given to a small room opening off the Burial Chamber, housed the most sacred and intimate of Tutankhamun's grave goods, including his canopic shrine. Here, resting on a jumbled heap of artefacts where it had been placed by the necropolis workers who restored the tomb after an ancient robbery, the excavation team found a plain wooden box whose displaced lid had originally been tied in place. Inside the box were two tiny, anthropoid coffins. The coffins had been tied with linen ribbons, and sealed with the cemetery seal. Both coffins were made of wood, both had been painted with resin, and both bore standard funerary inscriptions that named the deceased as 'Osiris'.

Each coffin held an inner coffin covered in gold foil, and each inner coffin held a small, well-bandaged mummy. The first mummy wore a golden funerary mask. Carter, who had not expected to find human remains in the tiny coffin, passed the mummy to the anatomist Douglas Derry, who identified the well-preserved body of a premature baby girl. The second tiny mummy lacked a mask. Derry unwrapped this mummy himself, revealing a second premature baby girl.

Recent medical tests indicate that these are likely to be Tutankhamun's daughters. We do not know why two baby girls would be included among the grave goods in a king's tomb. Nor, as Tutankhamun's is the only substantially intact 18th Dynasty royal tomb to be discovered in the Valley of the Kings, do we know if this was standard practice. Is it a coincidence that both babies were female? Or, as we might suspect, were they included in his burial so that they might add their feminine protection to that offered by Ankhesenamun?

TOP LEFT: **The inner and outer coffins of one of the two babies found inside Tutankhamun's tomb. The golden funerary mask worn by the infant is shown in the centre**

ABOVE: **One of the clay tablets that collectively make up *The Deeds of Suppiluliuma*. The Hittite source contains possible clues about Ankhesenamun's life as a widowed queen**

INTO WIDOWHOOD

Egypt had no role for a childless, widowed consort. We should therefore not be too surprised that Ankhesenamun disappears when Tutankhamun dies. We can imagine her retiring from public life and retreating to a harem palace, where she might spend the next 30 or 40 years in luxurious obscurity. However, one curious story suggests that Ankhesenamun may have retained some authority after her husband's death.

The Deeds of Suppiluliuma is a biographical account of the reign of the Hittite king Suppiluliuma I, written after his death. It has survived on a fragmented series of clay tablets, written in cuneiform 'wedge' script.

Embedded within the history is an intriguing tale. A widowed queen of Egypt has written to the king of the Hittites, asking him to send one of his sons to marry her and take the Egyptian throne. Frustratingly, the name of the letter writer, "Dahamunzu", is simply a phonetic version of the Egyptian queen's title *ta hemet nesu* or "King's Wife". Because we know that Suppiluliuma was one of Akhenaten's correspondents, we know that we are looking for a queen who was widowed after Akhenaten's death. Could this be Ankhesenamun?

The Hittite king was confused by the request. Everyone knew that the Egyptians would find the idea of a foreigner ruling Egypt abhorrent. He was, however, tempted: Egypt was a great prize. Eventually he sent a son, Zannanza, who died on the journey to Memphis. Whether or not this was a natural death is unclear; but it certainly caused a rift in the already lukewarm relationship between Egypt and the Hittites. There is no mention of this correspondence in the Egyptian records, and we are left questioning whether this is a genuine appeal for help made by a desperate Ankhesenamun, or whether it might have been a trap designed to cause diplomatic friction between Egypt and the Hittites.

JOYCE TYLDESLEY is Professor of Egyptology at the University of Manchester and an honorary fellow of Manchester Museum. Her books include *Tutankhamun: Pharaoh, Icon, Enigma* (Headline, 2022)

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X1

TREASURES OF THE TOMB

The Boy King's final resting place was filled with precious – and practical – items. We bring you a selection of our favourites...

1. Canopic stoppers
These four stoppers, created in the pharaoh's likeness, once sealed the compartments in the canopic chest that contained his mummified organs.

2. Headrest
This carved ivory headrest is supported by Shu, god of the air and supporter of the sky.

3. Royal head
This wooden carving of the child Tutankhamun's head emerging from a lotus flower was found at the entrance to his tomb.

4. Bracelet
Among the precious items in the tomb was this gold scarab bracelet, inlaid with lapis lazuli.

5. Child's chair
Found in the antechamber, this chair may have been used by Tutankhamun as a young boy.

6. Bag of natron
Natron (a naturally occurring salt), was used as part of the embalming process.

7. Palette and case
This ivory scribe's palette and case for writing reeds were among several found in the tomb.

8. Senet gaming board
An ancestor of draughts, senet was a popular game in ancient Egypt.

9. Pectoral ornament
Featuring the eye of Horus, this elaborate breastplate also boasts solar and lunar emblems. ⊙

GETTY IMAGES X7, ALAMY X2

MEET THE EXPERT

AIDAN DODSON is honorary full Professor of Egyptology at the University of Bristol and the author of some 25 books, including *Tutankhamun, King of Egypt: His Life and Afterlife* (AUC Press, 2023). Professor Dodson also appears in the seven-part *HistoryExtra* podcast series *Tutankhamun: Life, Death and Legacy*, which you can stream by scanning the QR code shown above or by visiting *historyextra.com/tutankhamun-series*

PROFESSOR AIDAN DODSON ON TUTANKHAMUN'S LEGACY TODAY

Tutankhamun has emerged from the mists of history to become a significant figure in the modern world

Tutankhamun reigned in Egypt in the late 14th century BC. As a child at his accession, and dead before the end of his teens, he probably had little input into what was done in his name. However, his tenure of the pharaonic throne was significant, seeing the dismantling of the short-lived eclipse of the traditional gods of Egypt by the sun-god promoted by Tutankhamun's predecessor – and probable father – Akhenaten. Although thus a patron of orthodoxy, Tutankhamun shared the posthumous fate of Akhenaten, and his own successor, Ay, in being written out of history, and omitted from official lists of the kings of Egypt.

Yet today he is the best-known of all the pharaohs of Egypt – wholly owing to the accident that meant that his was the only tomb in Luxor's Valley of the Kings to survive almost untouched until modern times. As revealed by archaeologists in 1922, the almost unbelievable richness of its contents – including a solid gold innermost coffin – catapulted Tutankhamun from an obscure figure known only to a few professional Egyptologists to a global megastar. In particular, the solid gold, glass-inlaid, mask found over the head of his mummified body has become an almost-universally recognised emblem of ancient Egypt.

As a result, today there are essentially two Tutankhamuns (and subsets thereof). One is the actual king of Egypt, the subject of scholarly research that aims to widen and deepen our understanding of the young man and his times. This is by no means an uncontroversial Tutankhamun, as there are probably as many perspectives on him, and theories on many of the details of his ancestry, life, death and burial, as there are deep-specialist Egyptologists who study him. Indeed, the range of views is such that there are a number of mutually exclusive versions of this 'academic Tutankhamun', each of which are the subject of sometimes-heated debates in print and in person.

The 'other' Tutankhamun is the product of the glitz and glamour popularly associated with the riches of his tomb; misunderstood gleanings from academic studies (especially outdated ones); sensationalist ideas put forward by self-styled 'alternative researchers'; and attempts to use ancient Egypt as a validation for modern social and political ideas. Given this backdrop, there is an almost infinite range of 'other Tutankhamuns', some of whom have only tangential interfaces with the real person, and more of interest to the anthropologist or sociologist than anyone interested in ancient Egypt itself.

Tutankhamun has thus emerged from the mists of history to become a significant figure in the modern world, both as a cipher for his own civilisation, and as an inspiration for those belonging to civilisations that would have been beyond his wildest imaginations.

Tutankhamun and his queen, Ankhesenamun, depicted in a scene on the pharaoh's golden throne

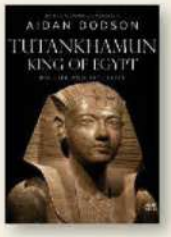
GETTY IMAGES X2

GET HOOKED

Learn more about Tutankhamun with our pick of resources to explore next

BOOKS

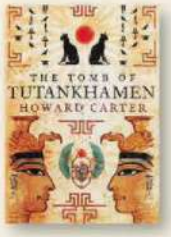
SELECTED BY PROFESSOR AIDAN DODSON



Tutankhamun, King of Egypt: His Life and Afterlife

By Prof Aidan Dodson (AUC Press, 2023)

Professor Aidan Dodson tells the story of Tutankhamun from his lifetime through to the present day, exploring – among other things – the way in which the young pharaoh was deliberately written out of history.



The Tomb of Tutankhamen

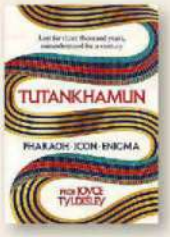
By Howard Carter and AC Mace (various editions since 1923)

First published in instalments between 1923 and 1933, the story of Howard Carter's landmark archaeological discovery in Egypt's Valley of the Kings is told here by Carter himself, capturing the drama as it unfolded.

The Complete Tutankhamun: 100 Years of Discovery

By Nicholas Reeves (Thames and Hudson, 2022)

Egyptologist Nicholas Reeves revisits Tutankhamun in the context of his time, the excavators in the context of theirs, and every aspect – both old and new – of the tomb's discovery, archaeology, architecture and art.

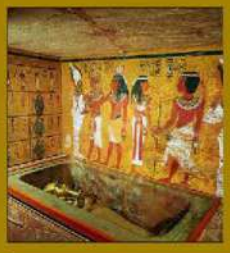


Tutankhamun: Pharaoh, Icon, Enigma

By Prof Joyce Tyldesley (Headline, 2022)

Piecing together more than 3,000 years of evidence and unpicking the misunderstandings that surround Egypt's most famous king, Professor Joyce Tyldesley offers a vital reappraisal of his life, death and enduring legacy.

ON THE BBC

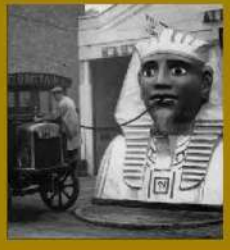


BBC RADIO 4

◀ The Tomb

bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001dd76

This two-part drama looks at how the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb played out in the context of Egypt's independence from British rule.

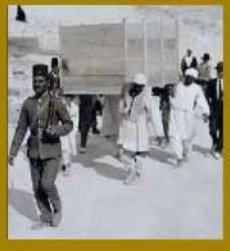


BBC RADIO 4

◀ The Cult of King Tut

bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0009r52

Patricia Clavin, professor of international history at the University of Oxford, examines the Egyptomania that followed the Boy King's discovery.



BBC RADIO 4

◀ In Our Time: Tutankhamun

bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000cng6

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the extraordinary contents of Tutankhamun's tomb, as well as the work of Howard Carter and his team.

HISTORYEXTRA PODCAST SERIES

Tutankhamun: Life, Death and Legacy

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In this seven-part *HistoryExtra* podcast series, Ellie Cawthorne examines the life of Tutankhamun and looks at why he continues to capture the popular imagination today. Along the way she speaks to several leading experts on the Boy King and his brief reign, including Professor Aidan Dodson, Professor Joyce Tyldesley, Dr Chris Naunton and Dr Heba Abd el Gawad.

WATCH

Raiders of the Lost Past: Tutankhamun's Secrets

(BBC iPlayer)

In this 2022 documentary, Dr Janina Ramirez turns detective and heads to Egypt to uncover the real story of how Tutankhamun's tomb was unearthed.

Egyptian Journeys with Dan Cruickshank (episode 2)

(BBC iPlayer)

Presenter Dan Cruickshank traces the unexpected twists and mysteries in Howard Carter's personal life, revealing the hidden legacy of his work.

BBC X2, GETTY IMAGES X3

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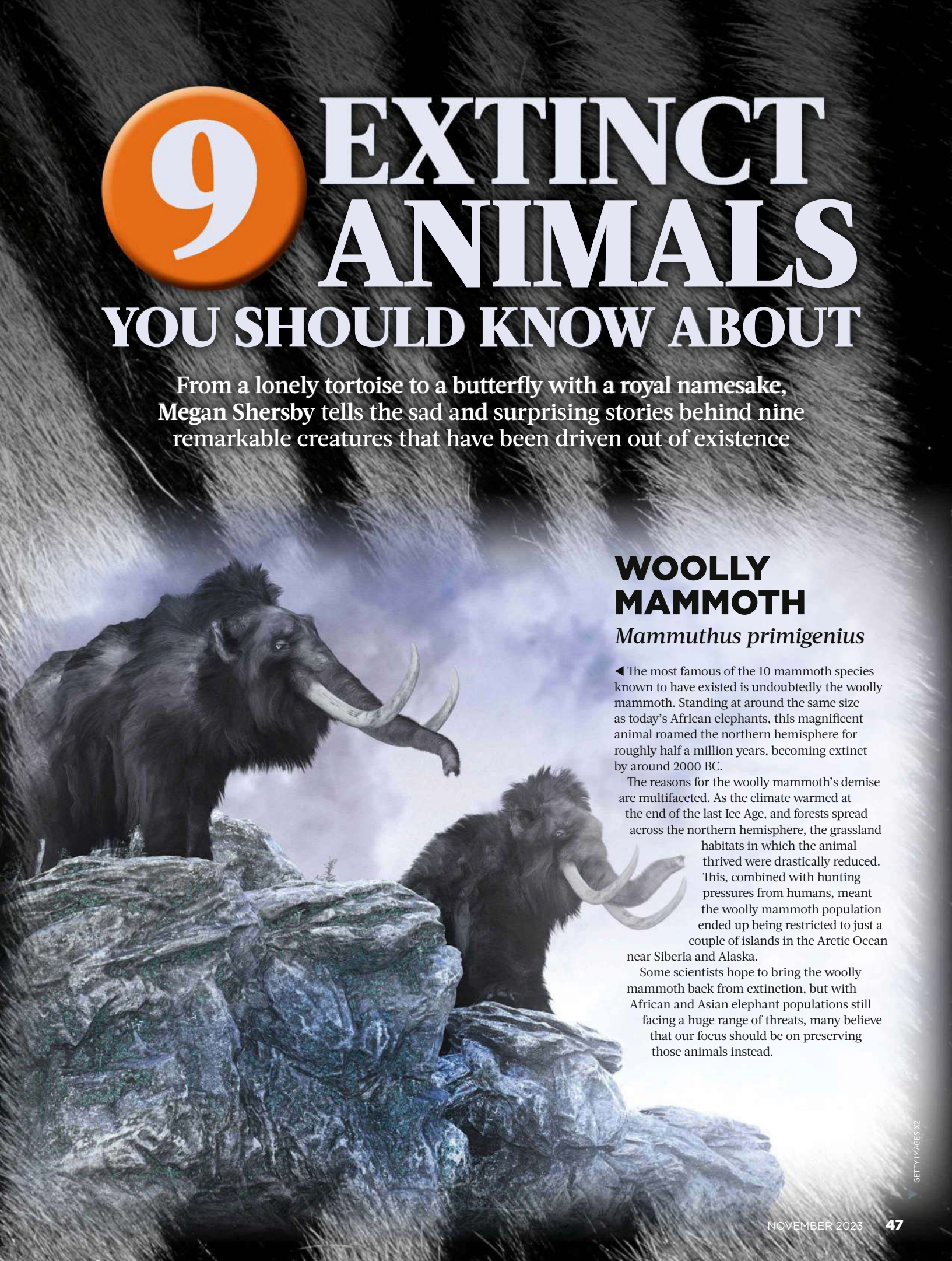
9 EXTINCT ANIMALS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

From a lonely tortoise to a butterfly with a royal namesake, Megan Shersby tells the sad and surprising stories behind nine remarkable creatures that have been driven out of existence



WOOLLY MAMMOTH

Mammuthus primigenius

◀ The most famous of the 10 mammoth species known to have existed is undoubtedly the woolly mammoth. Standing at around the same size as today's African elephants, this magnificent animal roamed the northern hemisphere for roughly half a million years, becoming extinct by around 2000 BC.

The reasons for the woolly mammoth's demise are multifaceted. As the climate warmed at the end of the last Ice Age, and forests spread across the northern hemisphere, the grassland habitats in which the animal thrived were drastically reduced. This, combined with hunting pressures from humans, meant the woolly mammoth population ended up being restricted to just a couple of islands in the Arctic Ocean near Siberia and Alaska.

Some scientists hope to bring the woolly mammoth back from extinction, but with African and Asian elephant populations still facing a huge range of threats, many believe that our focus should be on preserving those animals instead.

GETTY IMAGES X2

DODO

Raphus cucullatus

◀ For a large bird species that only became extinct relatively recently, we know surprisingly little about the dodo and its behaviours. In fact, there is just one near-complete dodo skeleton with bones from one bird, and there is only one specimen that contains soft tissue.

What we do know is that the dodo was restricted to Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean off the eastern coast of Madagascar and part of the Mascarene Archipelago, and was a relative to doves and pigeons. It's thought that natural selection caused the animal to evolve into a flightless bird, with the species no longer needing to fly on an island with no predators.

However, when humans – and the animals they brought with them – first came to Mauritius in the 16th century, the dodo became extremely vulnerable. As well as being hunted for meat, it suffered from habitat loss and the predation of its eggs, resulting in its extinction by c1680.

TOP: **A dodo skeleton on display alongside a feathered model recreation at a museum in Wales, 1938**

ABOVE: **A more recent artistic rendering shows the doomed bird's plumage**

THYLACINE

Thylacinus cynocephalus

▶ Also known as the Tasmanian tiger or Tasmanian wolf, the thylacine was a carnivorous mammal originally found in Australia and New Guinea. Despite being similar in appearance to the domestic dog, it was actually a marsupial – a group of mammals that also includes kangaroos, koalas, wombats and opossums – and had a pouch.

Once widespread, the thylacine became extinct on the Australian mainland no less than 2,000 years ago, although the reasons for this are unknown. The species then became restricted to the island of Tasmania, off the south coast of Victoria, with between 2,000–4,000 individuals remaining when the British arrived in the early 19th century.

Eventually, the thylacine was persecuted as it was deemed a threat to livestock. The last known captive individual died from exposure at a zoo in Hobart in 1936 after being accidentally left out overnight. It's thought that the last wild thylacines died in the 1960s, but that hasn't stopped persistent rumours over the species' continued survival.

An Aussie hunter proudly poses with a dead thylacine, 1925. The carnivorous marsupial was deemed a pest to livestock and ultimately driven to extinction by the 1960s

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X2, © FLORIDA MUSEUM–PHOTO BY KRISTEN GRACE X1

ABOVE: **A 19th-century illustration shows a great auk enjoying a fishy treat**

RIGHT: **The eggs of the great auk became highly prized by collectors**

GREAT AUK

Pinguinus impennis

▲ Despite being similar in colouration and shape and bearing the genus name *Pinguinus*, the great auk wasn't a relative of penguins, but was instead a member of the same family as puffins and guillemots. Once a relatively common species in the North Atlantic, it bred on remote rocky islands such as Funk Island off the coast of Newfoundland, which was described by one 18th-century sailor as being "entirely covered with those fowls, so close that a man could not put his foot between them."

However, exploration of the North Atlantic seas by European sailors spelled danger for the flightless seabird, with overharvesting of its eggs and adults for meat, feathers and body parts dramatically reducing the population. Attempts were made to protect the great auk, but that only increased its worth to collectors. Sadly, the last breeding pair were killed and their single egg accidentally crushed by fishermen on Eldey Island, Iceland, on 3 July 1844.

XERCES BLUE

Glaucopsyche xerces

▼ Named after the Persian kings Xerxes I and Xerxes II (whose names are sometimes spelled 'Xerces' in France), this diminutive blue butterfly species lived among the coastal sand dunes of the San Francisco Peninsula, where its caterpillar preferred to feed on a single plant species. However, urban development resulted in the loss of the plant, which could not survive in disturbed soil, and thus the loss of the Xerces blue in the 1940s – the first example of a butterfly becoming extinct due to human activity in North America. Later, the Xerces Society, a non-profit conservation organisation established in 1971, was named in memory of the lost invertebrate.

For a while, there was uncertainty as to whether the Xerces blue was a distinct species or a subspecies of another blue butterfly. However, a scientific paper published in 2021 examined the DNA of a museum specimen collected in 1928 and proved that it was indeed a distinct species.

The Xerces blue was first described in 1852 – less than a century before its extinction

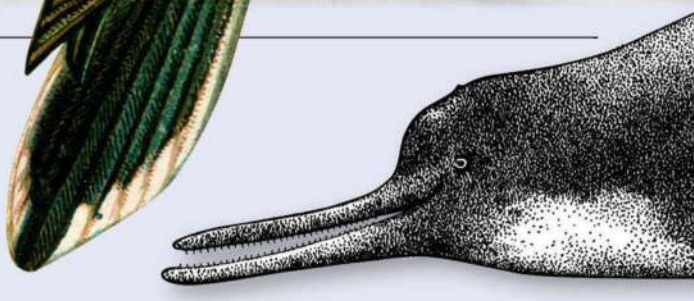
PASSENGER PIGEON

Ectopistes migratorius

▶ The passenger pigeon was one of the most abundant pigeon species on the planet. Native to North America, it was called *jahgowa* by the Seneca people, which translates to "big bread", as it was a source of food for the Seneca and other members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Despite this, the hunting of the species was carefully regulated by rules set by each tribe.

However, after colonisation by the Europeans, hunting of the passenger pigeon increased and gradually became more industrial and commercialised. As the population declined, the species then became vulnerable to further pressures such as habitat loss and predation by other animals.

The last living passenger pigeon was a female named Martha, who was kept at Cincinnati Zoo in Ohio. She died on 1 September 1914 – one of the few times we have known the absolute date of a species' extinction. Her death contributed to the creation of the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which requires permits to hunt some migratory bird species.



GOLDEN TOAD

Incilius periglenes

▼ So-named for the brilliant yellow-orange colouration of the male (the female was black with yellow and red patterning), the golden toad has become a poster child for extinctions connected to the climate crisis. Found in the Monteverde Cloud Forest of Costa Rica, the amphibian spent most of the year underground. It only emerged for a few days each April, with males fighting with each other around pools of rainwater in order to mate with females.

In 1987, roughly 1,500 golden toads were observed. However, the following year, only 10 toads were found, and in 1989, just one male. That one male was the last golden toad ever seen, and the species was officially declared extinct in 2004. While the exact cause of extinction is unknown, the climate crisis – combined with habitat loss and an infectious disease called chytridiomycosis – are all thought to have played a part.

The golden toad spent much of its time underground, only emerging in April to mate

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

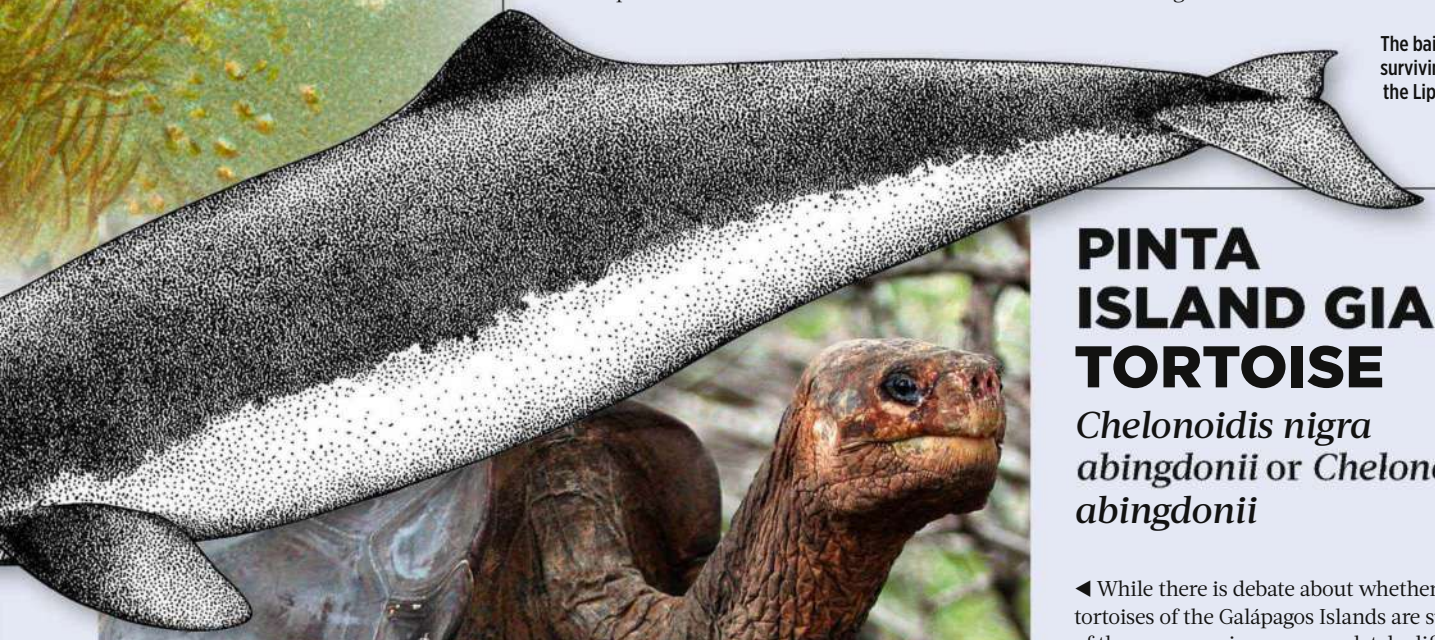
Flocks of passenger pigeons were so large that they would often darken the skies as they flew overhead

BAIJI

Lipotes vexillifer

▼ The baiji was a freshwater dolphin that lived in the Yangtze River in China, the third-longest river in the world. Although still listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List, having last been assessed in 2017, the species is considered extinct by conservationists. In fact, both the last confirmed sighting of a wild individual and the death of the last captive individual occurred in 2002.

The Yangtze River is also home to the Yangtze finless porpoise, the only freshwater porpoise in the world. Like the baiji, its existence is currently threatened by overfishing, shipping traffic and noise pollution. However, the 2017 suspension of sand mining in Dongting Lake – a flood basin of the Yangtze in China's Hunan province – has seen the finless porpoise return to areas that it had previously been avoiding.



The baiji was the last surviving member of the Lipotidae family

PINTA ISLAND GIANT TORTOISE

Chelonoidis nigra abingdonii or *Chelonoidis abingdonii*

◀ While there is debate about whether the giant tortoises of the Galápagos Islands are subspecies of the same species or a completely different species altogether, one thing is certain: Lonesome George was the last of his kind.

George was a Pinta Island tortoise, a species (or subspecies) that was already thought to have been extinct until he was discovered alone on the island that gave George and his former companions their collective name. There were attempts to find other Pinta Island tortoises, and to mate him with closely related females, but to no avail. He died in 2012 of natural causes when he was around 100 years old.

Curiously, scientists believe it might be possible to bring back the Pinta Island tortoise, or at least a closely related version. Researchers have discovered hybrid tortoises with Pinta Island tortoise genes on nearby Isabela Island, with their Pinta Island ancestors having been moved there by whalers and pirates.

MAIN: **Lonesome George, the last Pinta Island giant tortoise, died in 2012**
LEFT: **Scientists have considered resurrecting the Pinta Island giant tortoise – or at least a closely related version – by breeding other tortoises with Pinta ancestry**

MEGAN SHERSBY is a naturalist, science writer and communicator. She was previously editorial and digital coordinator at *BBC Wildlife Magazine*

GET HOOKED

LISTEN
Dr Lee Raye, associate lecturer at the Open University, discusses the extinct animals of medieval Britain on a recent episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast. Stream it now at *historyextra.com/extinct-animals-pod*

WHAT GREAT PAINTINGS SAY

We look at a monumental work of art – both in size and subject matter – that has become a visual icon of the horrors of World War I

Gassed

by John Singer Sargent, 1919

In July 1918, celebrated US artist John Singer Sargent arrived at the Western Front. He was not there to fight, though. His job, as dictated by the British War Memorial Committee of the Ministry of Information, was that of war artist, commissioned with creating the central painting for a planned Hall of Remembrance for World War I. The hall never transpired, but Sargent's enormous, near seven-metre-wide creation remains a visual reminder of the carnage and horror of that conflict.

"Sargent's was no easy task, and he struggled to reconcile the day-to-day grind of life on the front line, which often involved a lot of inactivity, with the sense of what he wanted to achieve – a work of memorial in both scale and tenor," says Rebecca Newell, head of art at Imperial War Museums.

"The farther forward one goes the more scattered and meagre everything is. The nearer to danger the fewer and more hidden the men – the more dramatic the situation the more it becomes an empty landscape," wrote a despairing Sargent in a letter to his friend, and later

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biographer, Evan Charteris. "The Ministry of Information expects an epic – and how can one do an epic without masses of men?"

Ultimately, it would be the aftermath of a horrific mustard gas attack in August 1918 that provided Sargent with the subject matter for his epic work.

WALKING WOUNDED

"After hearing that a number of mustard gas victims were being brought to a dressing station at Le Bac-du-Sud, Sargent and fellow artist Henry Tonks visited the scene and were profoundly struck by what they saw there," comments Newell. "The first significant use of gas had been by German forces in April 1915, and you can see here the devastating effects of the new technology that Sargent was trying to represent – from the blindness of the injured men, to the countless others laying piled on the ground waiting for aid. Despite the suffering all around them, a group of men are playing football in the background, lit by the evening sun."

The piece was unveiled at the Royal Academy's summer exhibition in 1919 to widespread acclaim, and rapidly achieved its symbolic status. Not all were in favour, though, including Virginia Woolf, who felt Sargent had overdone the work's pathos. Even so, the piece has remained a firm favourite with audiences in the 104 years since its rendering.

"It's a work rooted in first-hand experience, yet also a commentary on the vast scale of this type of total warfare and the technological developments, then new and terrifying, that could cause such horrific casualties." ⊙

WORDS: CHARLOTTE HODGMAN

GET HOOKED

Gassed will be on show in IWM London's Blavatnik Art, Film and Photography Galleries, which open on 10 November 2023. A new IWM publication, *John Singer Sargent's Gassed*, written by Rebecca Newell, is also available. Visit the IWM website for more details: *iwm.org.uk*

1. GAS WARFARE

As the line of injured men makes its way along the duckboards to the dressing station, one man turns away to vomit, while a football match can be seen playing out behind him. Mustard gas, while not usually fatal, caused blistering of the skin, as well as the throat and lungs if inhaled in large quantities. It could also lead to temporary blindness and long-lasting respiratory problems.

2. MEDICAL ORDERLY

The young medical orderly, dressed in braces and hat, provides a stark contrast to the suffering men he leads.

3. FIRST AID

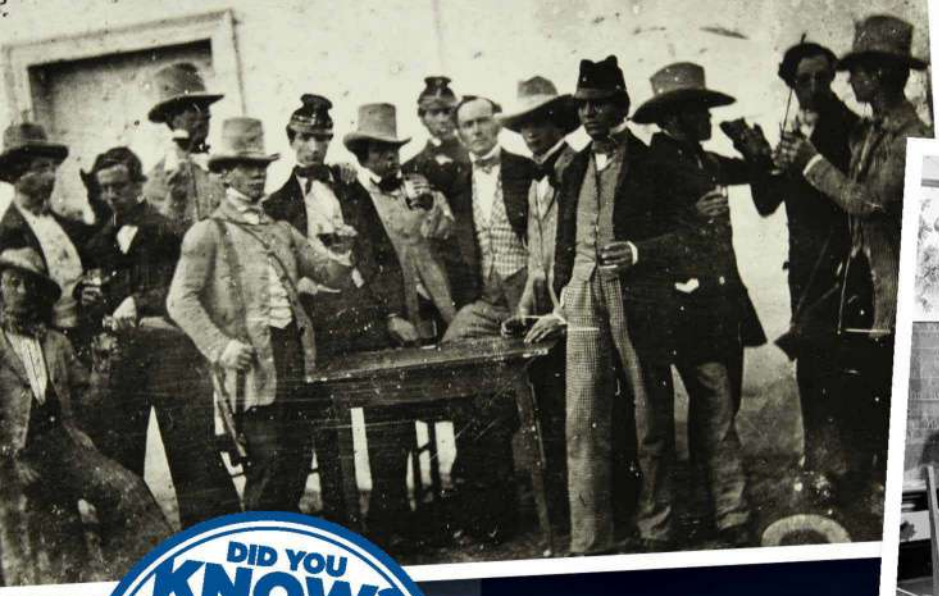
In the distance, more gassed men are being brought to the dressing station, the guy ropes of which can be seen leading off to the right.

LESSONS & LEARNING

We enter the classrooms of the past to discover how schooling, skills training and teaching materials have evolved over the centuries

HARD LINES, c1886

During the 19th century, in institutions such as the all-boys Essex Market School on Manhattan's Lower East Side, shown here, pupils were crammed into tightly packed pews. Danish-born social reformer Jacob Riis took this photograph of attentive students. According to him, these children attended lessons in conditions more squalid than those in a neighbouring prison.



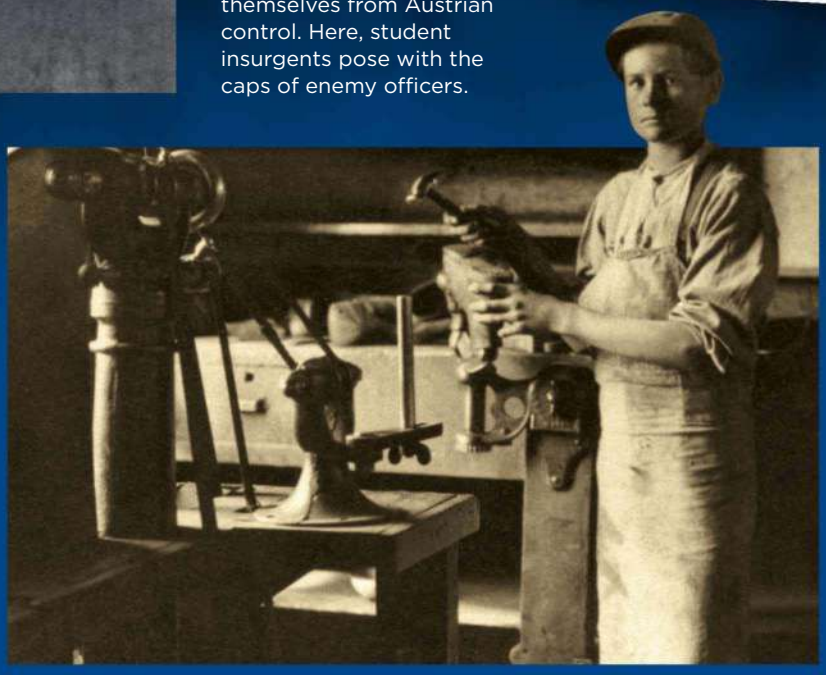
DID YOU KNOW?

AZTEC SCHOLARS

Unusually for societies of the early modern era, the Aztecs ensured that all children received an education. Depending on social status, they attended a *calmecac* – a school for future leaders and priests – or *telpochcalli*, where soldiers and artisans trained.

STUDENT POLITICS, 1848

▲ During the revolutionary wave that swept Europe in 1848, Italian states – including their students – fought to liberate themselves from Austrian control. Here, student insurgents pose with the caps of enemy officers.



MULTISENSORY LEARNING, c1940

▲ The Kendall School was established in Washington DC in 1857 to educate deaf and hard-of-hearing children from pre-school age through to high school. The students above are using picture books and earphones to learn.

SOLE MOTIVE, c1920

◀ Reform schools offered teenage offenders opportunities to hone new skills, and aimed to provide training and personal improvement, not merely punishment. This young apprentice is learning to make footwear in a Colorado reform school workshop.

SCHOOL REFORM, 1871

▶During its 10 weeks in power, the revolutionary government known as the Paris Commune introduced secular schools, pioneered skills-focused and intellectual training, and educated girls – as this photo of a Paris school shows. It also removed the stigma of child 'illegitimacy', and provided for orphans. Schoolchildren were given free clothing and meals until the brutal suppression of the Commune in late May 1871.

GETTY IMAGES X5

WORD OF MOUTH, c1945

▲ The innovative tactile writing system Braille was devised in the early 19th century for use by visually impaired people. This blind Italian boy at a convent for orphans in Rome is using his lips to read.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, c1905

▶ Through history, physical pain was often used to deter pupil misbehaviour, as this US teacher demonstrates in a staged photo.

STARGAZING, 1878

▼ Astronomer and educator Maria Mitchell (*second from left*) was the first American to discover a comet. She inspired countless women, such as these students at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, to become scientists.

REMOTE LEARNING, c1950s

◀ In far-flung areas of Australia, children – like this boy in rural New South Wales tuning in for a lesson – receive education remotely via the pioneering School of the Air.

SNOOZEFEST, 1937

▲ In the prewar years, open air schools aimed to protect children – such as these pupils in Lancashire – from tuberculosis. Interestingly, scientists today think that a midday snooze could enhance learning.

GETTY IMAGES X10

SHORE THING, 1934

▼ The Ragged School Union, a charity founded by Lord Shaftesbury in 1844, provided free education for children whose families were too poor to send them to schools in growing industrial cities such as London. The organisation also arranged visits to the seaside at Herne Bay in Kent, supervised by nurses. This image shows such a party returning from rowing.

WISER WOMEN, 1929

▶ The *Likbez* mass literacy campaign was rolled out across Soviet Russia (later the Soviet Union) during the 1920s and 1930s. It particularly prioritised the education of peasant women, such as these in one of the predominantly Islamic republics, hoping to eradicate patriarchal traditions. By the start of the Cold War, the Soviet Union claimed a literacy rate of nearly 100 per cent.

MAKING A POINT, c1903

▲ For many years, disruptive or slow-to-learn pupils were forced to wear a pointed hat known as a 'dunce cap', as seen in this (very likely staged) photograph from the beginning of the 20th century.

AN EQUAL MUSIC, c1930s

◀ A student orchestra rehearses at the Bordentown School in New Jersey, established in 1886 to provide educational and training opportunities for African-American students.

WORDS: DANNY BIRD

MORNING SALUTE, c1899

▶ The Pledge of Allegiance has been recited in US schools, such as this one in Washington DC, since 1892. The ritual has evolved since then, and students are no longer forced to participate.

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

Dr Susannah Wright answers listeners' questions about the history of British schools on an episode of the *HistoryExtra* podcast: *historyextra.com/british-schools-qa*

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GETTY IMAGES

400,000

The approximate number of words in the Constitution of the State of Alabama, the longest constitution in the world. Coming second is that of India, which has 145,000 words.

BALTIC BEAUTY
St Petersburg's many landmarks include the Church of the Saviour on Spilled Blood, completed in 1907

When was the city of St Petersburg founded?

SHORT ANSWER Peter the Great looked out on marshes and envisioned a European-style city in 1703. Or did he?

LONG ANSWER From the she-wolf-raised Romulus and Remus fighting over Rome, to a snake-eating eagle choosing the site of modern-day Mexico City by perching on a cactus, to Antwerp's giant with a fondness of cutting off hands, cities all over the world boast a part-myth, part-great story foundation. St Petersburg is no different.

In May 1703, according to the tale, tsar Peter the Great visited land recently conquered from the Swedes that offered access to the Baltic Sea, and saw the future of Russia. Here, a brand-new city would be a "window to Europe", a symbol of his modernisations, and a chance to get away from the chaos of Moscow. He cut two strips of turf and placed them on the ground in the shape of a cross, announcing this to be the birthplace of his beloved new town. An eagle then flew overhead in an undeniably auspicious sign.

MAN WITH A PLAN
An engraving imagines Peter the Great overseeing building work

Never mind that the land was far from ideal – too marshy, too windy and too prone to freezing – or that Peter wasn't even there to have his historic vision. The responsibility of construction actually fell to his friend Alexander Menshikov. For two centuries, St Petersburg (named for the saint, not the tsar), served as the capital of the Russian empire.

GETTY IMAGES X2

SHOW OF STRENGTH
The *haka* performed by the All Blacks uses words written by the Māori leader Te Rauparaha (*left*)

PODCAST

What are the origins of the haka?

Answered by Dr James Belich, Beit professor of global and imperial history at the University of Oxford

The *haka*, a revered Māori tradition, is a dance brimming with multifaceted significance. While often regarded as a war dance, its implications stretch beyond mere intimidation. Comparable to an inspecting of the guard ceremony for a visiting dignitary, the *haka* conveys a message of presence and strength. It serves as a form of welcome with a reminder that those performing it possess the ability to defend themselves.

The emblematic *haka*, synonymous with New Zealand's national rugby team, the All Blacks, was composed around 1820 by Te Rauparaha, a Māori military leader during the Musket Wars (intertribal conflicts between c1807 and c1837). His composition, which opens with the chant *ka mate, ka mate, ka ora, ka ora* evokes life and death. The dramatic spectacle acts as an empowering emblem for the All Blacks and has distinguished the *haka* as a universally recognised symbol of New Zealand and Māori heritage on the world stage.

▶ To hear more from Dr James Belich on New Zealand's history, visit *historyextra.com/new-zealand-pod*

40

The percentage of land owned by women in ancient Sparta, according to Aristotle. They could also expect to inherit half the share on a property that a son would receive.

GETTY IMAGES X4

Why was the Terracotta Army created?

Answered by **Professor Dame Jessica Rawson**, honorary research associate at the University of Oxford

PODCAST

The Terracotta Warriors form part of a vast mausoleum complex constructed for Qin Shi Huang, First Emperor of China. The site, located outside Xi'an, is dominated by a colossal 55-metre-high mound, concealing a 30-metre-deep pit filled with a warren of chambers. Guarding this complex, situated 1.5 miles away, are the Terracotta Warriors. Their duty? To defend the First Emperor's afterlife palace – his tomb – into eternity. Arrayed to face east and stood sentinel in three of four massive pits, the life-sized soldiers, numbering in the thousands, bear real weapons (such as swords and crossbows) and some even have chariots.

Yet the site's splendours extend beyond the warriors. Recent excavations have also revealed subterranean buildings housing horses, wrestlers and stone armour (believed to be highly effective in the afterlife), destined for the emperor's elite entourage. Intriguingly, bronze birds – displaying non-Chinese craftsmanship – hint at cultural exchange with central and western Asia and the First Emperor's global reach.

The archaeological site continues to yield secrets about Qin Shi Huang's contacts with the wider world, revealing a powerful leader who commanded not only armies but also a transcontinental network.

▶ To hear more from Professor Dame Jessica Rawson on ancient Chinese tombs, visit *historyextra.com/chinese-tombs-pod*

SUBTERRANEAN SOLDIERS
The Terracotta Army (*main*) was created to provide protection for the deceased Chinese emperor Qin Shi Huang (*right*) in the afterlife

SURVIVING RIVAL
Edgar depicted in a 13th-century family tree showing the descendants of his grandfather, King Edmund Ironside

What happened to Edgar the Aetheling?

SHORT ANSWER The one-time heir proved a thorn in the side of kings – and he outlived them all

LONG ANSWER Throughout 1066 and all that, the teenage Edgar, an Anglo-Saxon prince (or *aetheling*) and grandson of King Edmund Ironside, was one of the contenders for the English throne. While William the Conqueror came out on top, he at least survived – which is more than can be said for other rivals.

Edgar immediately paid homage to the new king, although he then spent the next few years as a figurehead of rebellion against the Norman regime. This came to naught, and he eventually gave up his claim. Still, he remained a man of transient loyalties, gaining support from Scottish kings before installing his own nephew on the throne, and fighting against the successions of William II and Henry I, only to serve both monarchs at later dates.

While Edgar's later years are shrouded in mystery, it seems that he was still alive in 1125. He therefore outlived three kings: his 1066 rival Harold Godwinson and the first two Williams.

9,999
The number of pipes that make up the organ at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The largest individual pipe is nearly 13 metres tall, while the smallest is the size of a drinking straw.

Who were the Angel Makers of Nagyrév?

PODCAST

Answered by **Patti McCracken**, author of *The Angel Makers* (Mudlark, 2023)

The 'Angel Makers' was the name given to a group of women who lived in the Hungarian village of Nagyrév, 60 miles east of Budapest. During the interwar period, they became notorious for their use of arsenic (procured by a local midwife named Zsuzsanna Fazekas, or 'Auntie Suzy') to poison their abusive husbands, claiming between 40 and 100 lives in the process.

Sixty-six women were indicted, with 29 standing trial and 16 ultimately convicted for the murder of 42 men. Some were hanged and some were given life sentences, while others took their own lives. The macabre tale briefly became a global sensation, with journalists from newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *The Manchester Guardian* all descending upon Nagyrév to witness the fate of these murderous women.

▶ To hear more from Patti McCracken on the Angel Makers of Nagyrév, visit *historyextra.com/angel-makers-pod*

ARSENICAL ALLIANCE
The 1929 trial of the so-called 'Angel Makers' attracted headlines around the world

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

DANGEROUS DUO
Two Red Army snipers return from an assignment, 1943. Until the 1980s, the stories of Soviet women who fought in World War II had been largely forgotten

How has history treated women soldiers?

PODCAST

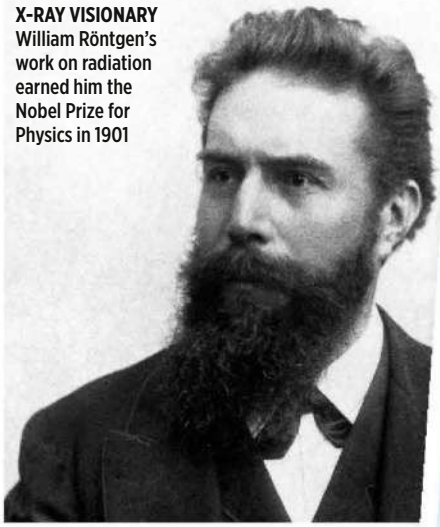
Answered by **Sarah Percy**, associate professor at the University of Queensland and author of *Forgotten Warriors* (John Murray, 2023)

Throughout history, the contributions of women to warfare have often been relegated to the shadows, their stories obscured, misrepresented or actively suppressed.

In the American Civil War, women who took up arms and even cross-dressed to join the fight were initially celebrated as heroines, integral to a defining chapter in US history. However, as time passed, their legacy was either ignored or categorically tarnished, with some historians in the 20th century dismissing them as being either mentally unstable or 'lesbians'.

Similarly, during World War II, up to a million Soviet women served in combat positions. They fought on the front line, driving tanks, flying fighter planes and even becoming highly decorated snipers. However, after the war, they were denied recognition and discouraged from discussing their military service. It was only through the efforts of pioneering Soviet journalist Svetlana Alexievich in the 1980s that these women's stories emerged from obscurity, shedding light on their remarkable contribution.

▶ To hear more from Sarah Percy on women combatants and war, visit *historyextra.com/war-women-pod*



X-RAY VISIONARY
William Röntgen's work on radiation earned him the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1901

LENDING A HAND
The first person to be X-rayed was Röntgen's wife, Anna Bertha – but seeing the resulting image caused more fright than fascination

Who was the first person to be X-rayed?

SHORT ANSWER It was a Röntgen who discovered X-rays, and a Röntgen who became the first skeletal subject

LONG ANSWER An accidental discovery involving cathode rays and electrical currents led a German physics professor, Wilhelm Röntgen, to the discovery of X-rays, but only after weeks of focus that bordered on the obsessive. Barely leaving his lab while conducting experiments, his ever-patient wife, Anna Bertha, looked after him by delivering meals. Then when he made his breakthrough, she offered her helping hand again – this time literally.

Wilhelm had realised the mysterious rays he had observed, and labelled as "X radiation", could pass through numerous substances and be exposed like a photograph. Wanting to test whether this effect worked on human flesh, he placed his wife's hand on a photographic glass plate and subjected it to the radiation. The X-ray he took, on 22 December 1895, revealed the bones of the hand and the shape of her wedding ring.

Wilhelm's findings forever changed medicine almost overnight, with the world's first X-ray unit being opened less than a year later at Glasgow's Royal Infirmary by Dr John Macintyre. As for Anna Bertha, she could hardly be described as thrilled at having been the first X-ray subject. When she saw the exposure of her bony hand, she reportedly exclaimed, "I have seen my death."

DID YOU KNOW?

ART CRITIC
When a young Pablo Picasso exhibited his work with fellow Cubists in Paris in 1911, a *New York Times* reviewer scathingly described the artist's paintings as "a series of childish, not to say imbecile, scribbles" with no "material beauty".

PAIN IN THE NECK
Although ancient Egyptians wore amulets and necklaces depicting flies for protection from disease, they still wanted to keep the real things away. A common tool they used was a type of fly swatter made out of the tails of giraffes.

WINDOW BLESSING
Sweden has a rather strange relationship with window curtains: strict Lutherans historically referred to the drapery as the 'devil's underwear', and in the 1600s they were made illegal – a law that technically still exists today.

KEEPING HER NAME
Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of 32nd US president Frankin D Roosevelt, was actually born with the maiden name Roosevelt. She was the niece of the 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt, who was himself a distant cousin of her husband.

What is the oldest musical instrument in the world?

SHORT ANSWER Bone flutes are bona fide proof that the Neanderthals deserve more credit

LONG ANSWER You'd be forgiven for thinking that the 1995 discovery of a cave bear thighbone in Divje Babe cave, Slovenia, doesn't sound that shocking. But this bone had holes neatly carved and spaced out along its surface, and is thought to be a Neanderthal musical instrument made around 50,000–60,000 years ago.

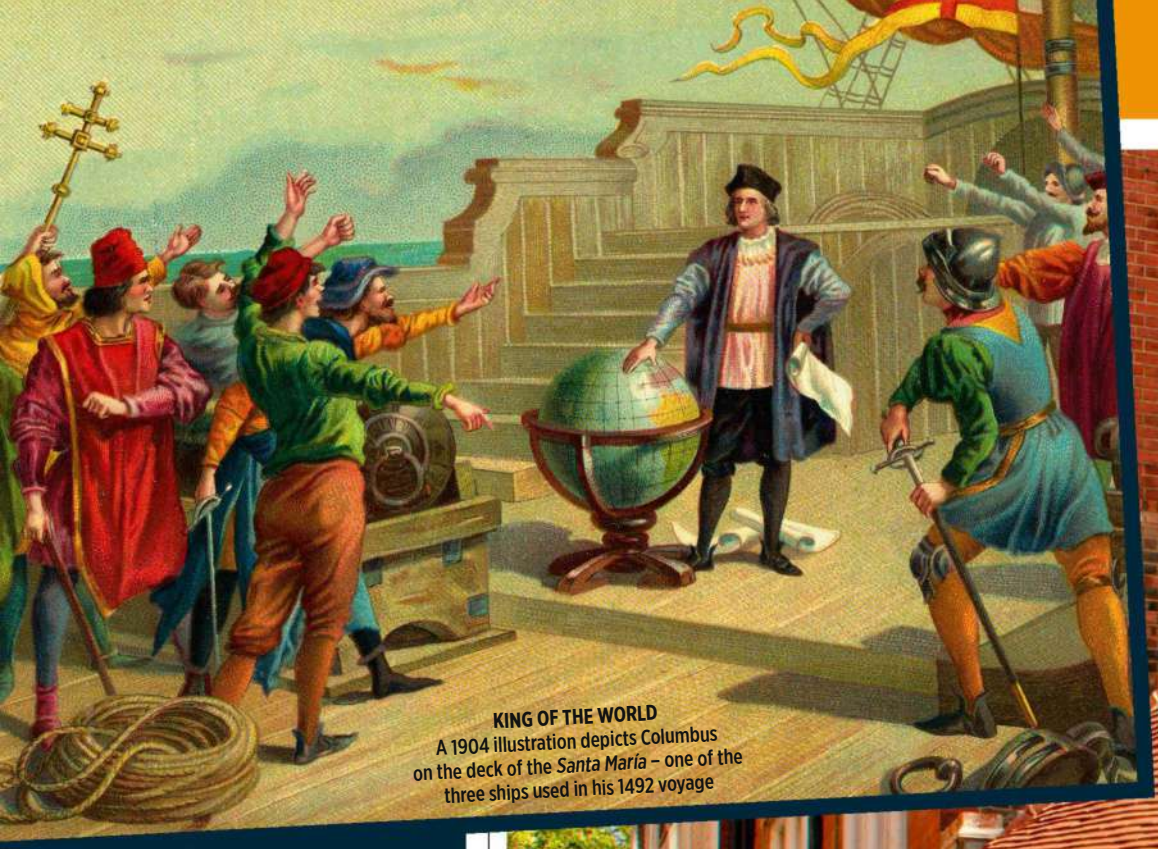
A replica made by the Slovenian National Museum has proven that the flute can play different notes on the diatonic scale, so adding another piece of evidence that the Neanderthals were more sophisticated than has long been claimed. There is a school of thought that the holes were made by an animal's teeth, but even if this flute was a hyena's chew toy, similar items have been found in Germany dating back at least 30,000 years.

THIGH CULTURE
The Divje Babe flute was crafted from the femur of a young cave bear

When was the pizza cutter invented?

SHORT ANSWER In 1892. But it wasn't used for cutting pizza...

LONG ANSWER The traditional pizza cutter of a wheel-shaped blade attached to a handle was invented by American David S Morgan and patented in September 1892. Except, he didn't invent a pizza cutter at all. Pizza wasn't even that well-known in the US at the time – the number of Italian immigrants only began to swell in the early 20th century, and the first pizzeria (in New York City) didn't open until 1905. Instead, Morgan's patent was for a "Roller knife for trimming wall paper". As pizza's popularity grew, however, the advantages of his knife became apparent and the switch was made from cutting house decoration to food.



KING OF THE WORLD
A 1904 illustration depicts Columbus on the deck of the *Santa María* – one of the three ships used in his 1492 voyage

Did Columbus discover the world was round?

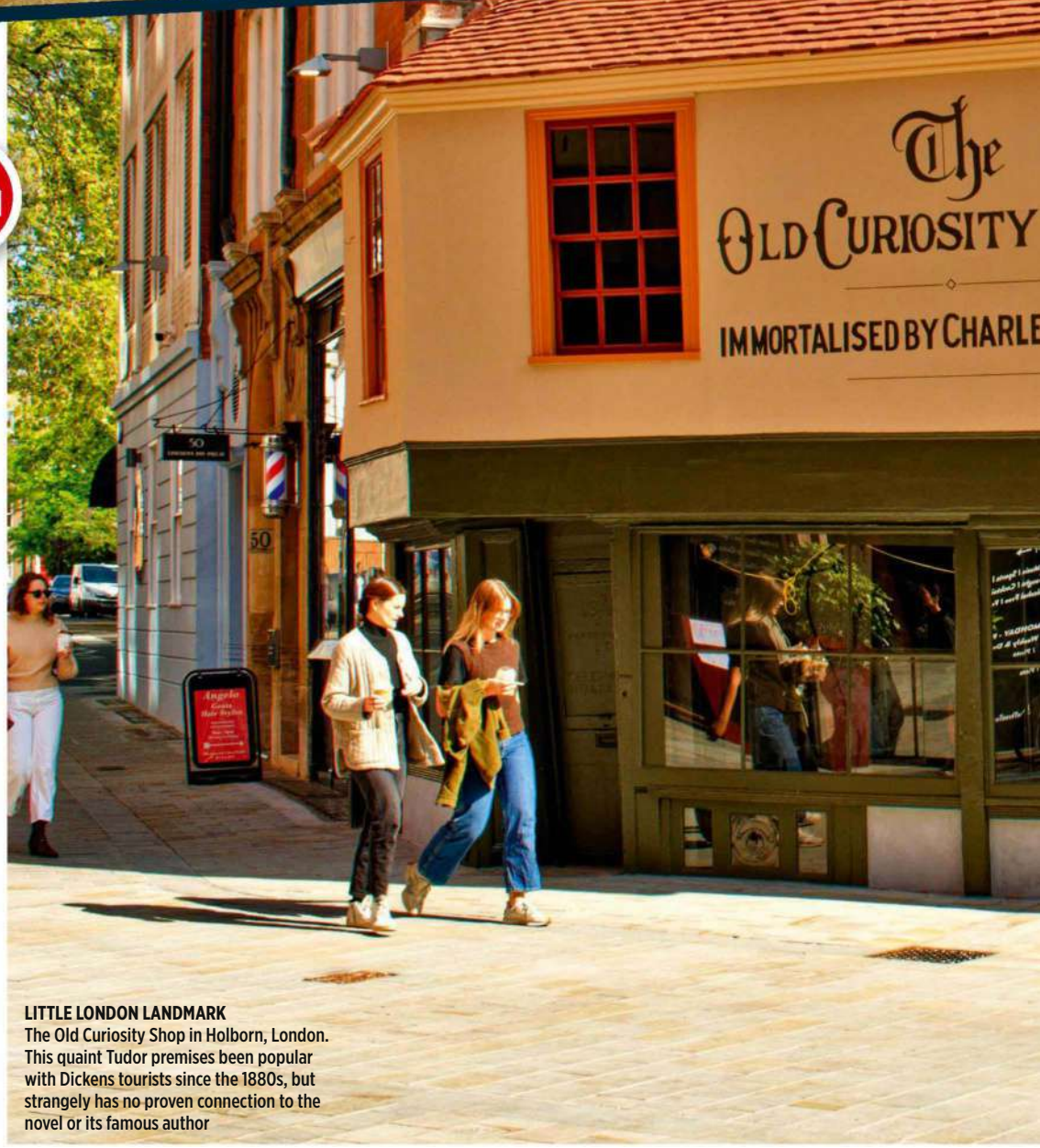
PODCAST

Answered by Dr James Hannam, author of *The Globe* (Reaktion, 2023)

Contrary to popular belief, Christopher Columbus did not set sail in 1492 to prove that the Earth was round. In fact, during Columbus's era, a spherical Earth was widely accepted in Europe, thanks to centuries of scientific observation and theory. The explorer's famous journey across the Atlantic was instead driven by personal ambition and the desire to find a daring 'shortcut' to eastern Asia, which he believed was significantly closer to Europe than it actually is.

Many of the misgivings surrounding Columbus's plans weren't because people thought that he would fall off the edge of the Earth, but because of the seemingly insurmountable distance that his small ships would have to cover. The idea of sailing westward towards China – at a time when Europeans did not know of the landmass later named America – was a radical notion.

▶ To hear more from Dr James Hannam on how humans 'discovered' the world is round, visit *historyextra.com/globe-pod*



LITTLE LONDON LANDMARK
The Old Curiosity Shop in Holborn, London. This quaint Tudor premises been popular with Dickens tourists since the 1880s, but strangely has no proven connection to the novel or its famous author

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X1

18.5

The life expectancy of those living in Dudley during the mid-19th century. Industrialisation and urbanisation had contributed to the spread of diseases like cholera and typhus.

What did Charles Dickens think about tourism?

PODCAST

Answered by **Lee Jackson**, author of *Dickensland The Curious History of Dickens's London* (Yale, 2023)

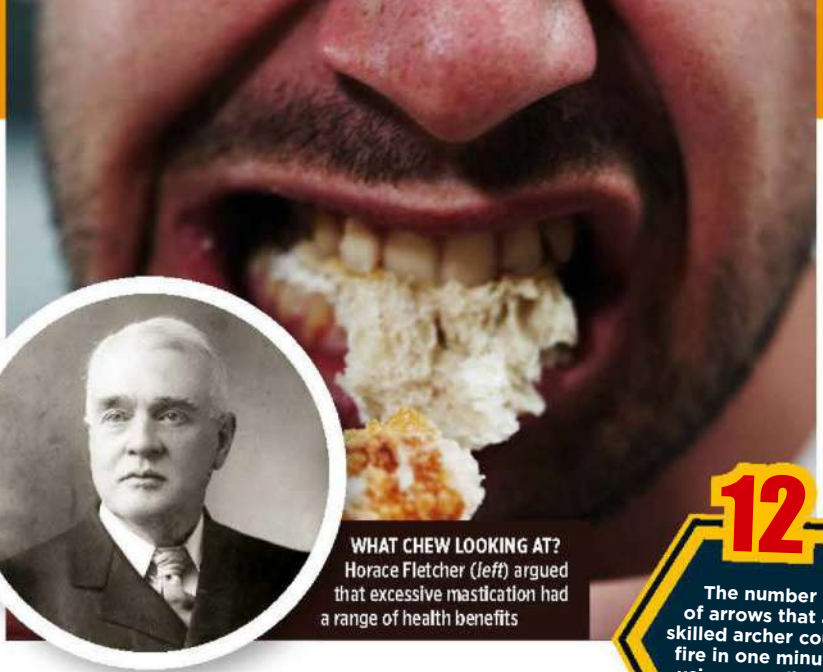
The locations featured in Charles Dickens's novels attract thousands of sightseers each year. However, the author himself held a less than favourable view of tourists, and sometimes used his pen to skewer such people in his writing.

For example, in his 1846 travelogue *Pictures from Italy*, Dickens introduces readers to the figures of Mr and Mrs Davis, caricatures of quintessential 19th-century tourists. Mrs Davis, consumed by her handbag, remains oblivious to the country's beauty, while Mr Davis probes his surroundings using his umbrella, emblematic of the brash and destructive nature of tourism. The author's vexation even extended to guidebooks, best exemplified by his withering opinion of the ones produced to accompany the Crystal Palace's historical displays. Indeed, in one letter, he dismisses the brochures as "flatulent botheration", distractions that prevented visitors from fully immersing themselves in the exhibition.

Dickens rather believed that tourists only experienced places through the 'sieve' of guidebooks rather than enjoying them directly. As such, it is interesting to speculate as to whether he would have been concerned about the moral messages of his novels becoming diluted and lost through the distorted lens of the modern Dickensian tourist industry.

▶ To hear more from Lee Jackson about life in Dickens's London, visit *historyextra.com/dickens-london-pod*

THE WORST OF TIMES
Dickens, depicted here in c1859, thought tourists were too obsessed with guidebooks to enjoy themselves



WHAT CHEW LOOKING AT?
Horace Fletcher (*left*) argued that excessive mastication had a range of health benefits

12
The number of arrows that a skilled archer could fire in one minute using a medieval longbow.

What was the belief behind Fletcherism?

SHORT ANSWER For anyone told as a child to chew their food, be thankful you weren't told by Horace Fletcher

LONG ANSWER Unusual dieting fads were a real… well, fad in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and among the most popular in the US was Fletcherism. Espoused by Horace Fletcher, who said he lost 42 pounds (19kg) with his regime and could compete physically with college athletes when in his sixties, the premise was simple: chew your food, then chew some more, then carry on chewing.

Needless to say, a strong jaw would be essential since the idea was to break down the food to a pulp. A single shallot needed to be chewed in excess of 700 times. The ideal result, according to Fletcher, the 'Great Masticator', would be totally dried-out, non-smelling excrement, or "ash", as this proved that zero waste material remained inside the human body.

Despite having its denigrators as a "chew chew cult", Fletcherism attracted the rich and powerful, including Thomas Edison, Arthur Conan Doyle and John D Rockefeller.

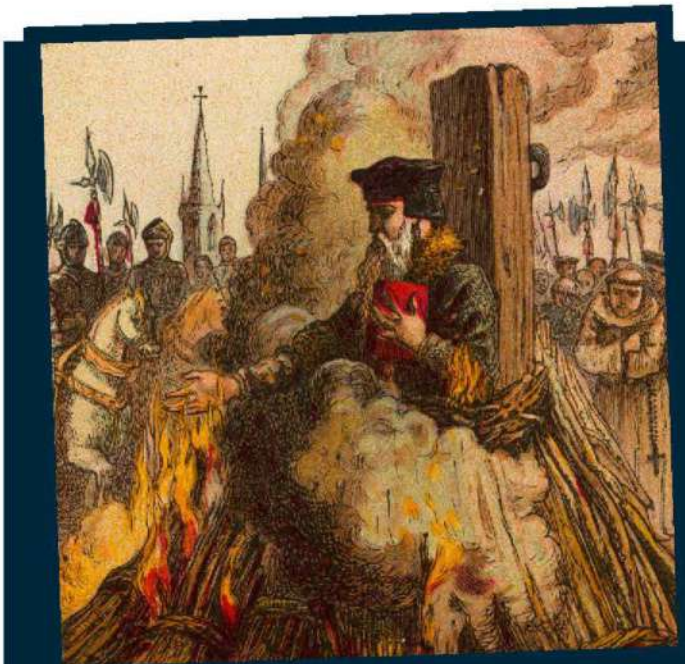
Did an eclipse really stop an ancient battle?

SHORT ANSWER That's what Herodotus said, but maybe a good story has eclipsed the facts here

LONG ANSWER In his *Histories*, the Greek historian Herodotus writes of how a philosopher named Thales of Miletus correctly predicted a solar eclipse. There's no way of knowing how he achieved this remarkable feat of astronomic forecasting, although it has since been calculated to have been the eclipse of 28 May 585 BC.

What has helped place the eclipse is Herodotus's claim that, at that exact moment, the Medes and Lydians – who were engaged in battle near the River Halys in modern-day Turkey – saw "day turning into night" and immediately dropped their weapons. Of course, there's always the possibility that Herodotus, writing around 150 years after this battle, may have been exaggerating (or indeed fabricating) the tale for dramatic effect.

SOLAR POWER
Heredotus (*below*) claimed that an eclipse prompted the Medes and Lydians to seek peace



THE DEATH OF A MARTYR
Archbishop Thomas Cranmer, who was burned at the stake in Oxford in 1556, was one of the most famous victims of Mary's persecutions

Who was the first to be executed by Mary I?

SHORT ANSWER John Rogers gave a tough act for the other Protestant martyrs to follow

LONG ANSWER Henry VIII may have broken from Rome in the 1530s, but by July 1553, his eldest daughter Mary was queen and intent on restoring Catholicism across England. Over the next five years, the monarch would persecute hundreds of Protestants across the country, beginning with a clergyman named John Rogers.

Rogers, who had edited an English-language version of the Bible, was initially imprisoned for just over a year, having met Mary's ascension with an anti-Catholic sermon about "pestilent Popery, idolatry and superstition", before being taken to Smithfield in London and publicly burned at the stake on 4 February 1555.

According to *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, Rogers endured the pain calmly and even "washed his hands in the flame, as though it had been in cold water". With his wife and 11 children looking on, he "constantly and cheerfully took his death, with wonderful patience, in the defence and quarrel of Christ's gospel".

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X3

KNOW YOUR ENEMY
An 1880s image depicts Otto von Bismarck (*right*) meeting the captured Napoleon III following the battle of Sedan in 1870

PODCAST

What was the Franco-Prussian War?

Answered by Dr Rachel Chrastil, provost at Xavier University and author of *Bismarck's War: The Franco-Prussian War and the Making of Modern Europe* (Allen Lane, 2023)

Beginning in July 1870 and concluding in January 1871, the Franco-Prussian War was a six-month conflict fought between France and Prussia.

While a key trigger was a dispute among European powers over the succession to the Spanish throne, Otto von Bismarck – chancellor of the North German Confederation – mostly saw the war as a way to unify the myriad German states under the Prussian king, Wilhelm I. On the opposing side stood Napoleon III, ruler of France's Second Empire, whose army boasted a rapid-firing weapon known as the *mitrailleuse*, despite having inferior artillery overall.

Nevertheless, France suffered defeat at the battle of Sedan in September 1870 and Napoleon III was captured, spurring Parisians to overthrow his regime and establish a provisional republican government under Leon Gambetta.

Despite fighting on, Paris was soon besieged by Prussian armies, and the capital faced such privation that butchers began selling exotic meat from the local zoo. In May 1871, less than four months after the hostilities had ended, France signed the Treaty of Frankfurt, ceding Alsace and part of Lorraine to the new German Empire, which was proclaimed at the Palace of Versailles. Overall, the Franco-Prussian War shifted the balance of power in Europe and set the scene for the 20th century's geopolitical crises.

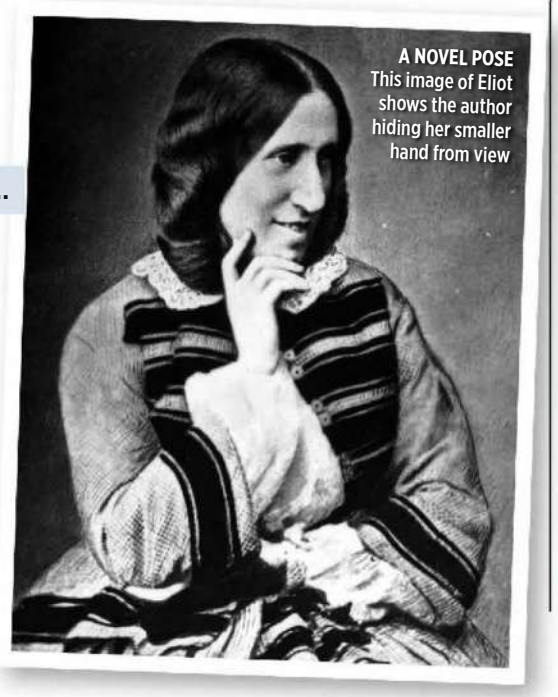
▶ **To hear more from Dr Rachel Chrastil on the Franco-Prussian War, visit *historyextra.com/franco-prussian-pod***

Did George Eliot have one hand bigger than the other?

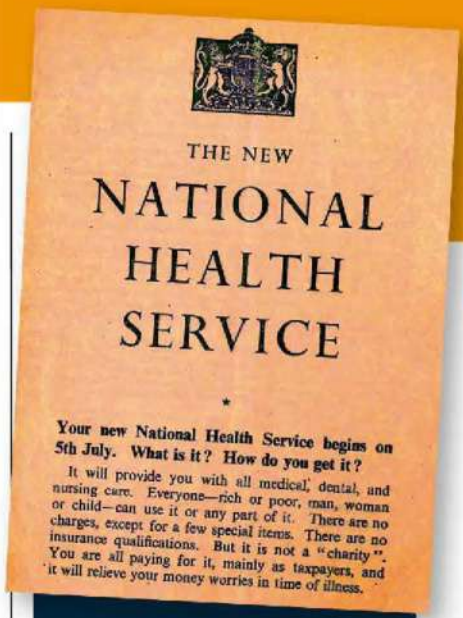
SHORT ANSWER Yes, but keep it quiet... her family didn't want us to know

LONG ANSWER Before she was George Eliot, the Victorian novelist of *Silas Marner* (1861) and *Middlemarch* (1871–72), she was Mary Ann Evans, daughter of a Warwickshire estate manager. In her youth, she spent hours churning butter, which made her right hand stronger than her left and so slightly larger.

When this fact appeared in a biography of Eliot written not long after her death in 1880, her furious family vehemently denied it and spent years trying to make other biographers denounce it as hearsay. Apparently, her past of menial farm work had to be forgotten if she was to be remembered as an intellectual.



A NOVEL POSE
This image of Eliot shows the author hiding her smaller hand from view



THE NEW
NATIONAL
HEALTH
SERVICE

Your new National Health Service begins on 5th July. What is it? How do you get it?

It will provide you with all medical, dental, and nursing care. Everyone—rich or poor, man, woman or child—can use it or any part of it. There are no charges, except for a few special items. There are no insurance qualifications. But it is not a "charity". You are all paying for it, mainly as taxpayers, and it will relieve your money worries in time of illness.

What was healthcare in Britain like prior to the NHS?

PODCAST

Answered by Dr Andrew Seaton, junior research fellow at the University of Oxford

Before the inception of the National Health Service in July 1948, healthcare in Britain was funded by a complex mix of government, voluntary and private sources. In the 1920s and 1930s, for instance, general practice – a primary gateway to healthcare – was underpinned by the National Insurance system, introduced by the Liberal Party during the Edwardian era. This provided access to panel doctors for patients who met certain income criteria.

Unfortunately, the system excluded dependants such as wives and children, and social stigma meant that panel patients endured segregation from private patients in GP surgeries. This segregation was mirrored in hospitals, which included municipal hospitals run by local councils (often based on old Victorian institutions) as well as voluntary hospitals, which ranged from prestigious teaching centres to local cottage institutions struggling for funds.

That being said, Britain's healthcare landscape wasn't quite the uncaring, barren wasteland often assumed by posterity – it had both strengths and weaknesses.

▶ **To hear more from Dr Andrew Seaton on the history of the NHS, visit *historyextra.com/nhs-pod***

ON THE FRONT LINE
Masked members of Red Cross Motor Corps in St Louis, Missouri, prepare to treat influenza patients in 1918

PODCAST

Why was it called Spanish flu?

Answered by **Dr Agnes Arnold-Forster**, historian and Chancellor's Fellow at the University of Edinburgh

Despite its name, the deadly influenza pandemic that afflicted the world between 1918 and 1919 did not originate in Spain, and nor was Spain responsible for its initiation and spread.

This misnomer stemmed from the specific circumstances of World War I, during which Spain maintained neutrality and was therefore not subject to the same wartime censorship rules as the combatant nations. Whereas these countries were determined to repress bad news and maintain morale, the Spanish press covered the pandemic extensively, making it appear as if Spain was the epicentre of the outbreak.

In reality, the first recorded cases emerged in March 1918 within military camps based in the central US state of Kansas, where soldiers were preparing for deployment overseas. Amid these overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, the pathogen – which most likely originated from an animal source – found an ideal environment through which to transmit and infect human hosts.

▶ To hear more from Dr Agnes Arnold-Forster on Spanish flu, visit *historyextra.com/spanish-flu-pod*

12,000

The number of murexes (marine molluscs) required to yield around 1.5g of an ancient dye known as Tyrian purple. The process was so laborious that it was considered the most opulent colour in the world.

GETTY IMAGES X3

Does the Roman emperor Trajan deserve his reputation?

Answered by **Tom Holland,** author of *Pax: War and Peace in Rome's Golden Age* (Little, Brown, 2023)

PODCAST

While Trajan may have earned the grand title of *optimus princeps* (the 'best of emperors') from the Romans, his historical reputation has arguably been overrated. His triumphs in Dacia and subsequent territorial ambitions indeed bolstered his image, but a closer look reveals a different story. His conquests extended Roman control to Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq) and even echoed the limit of Alexander the Great's territorial ambitions by verging on India.

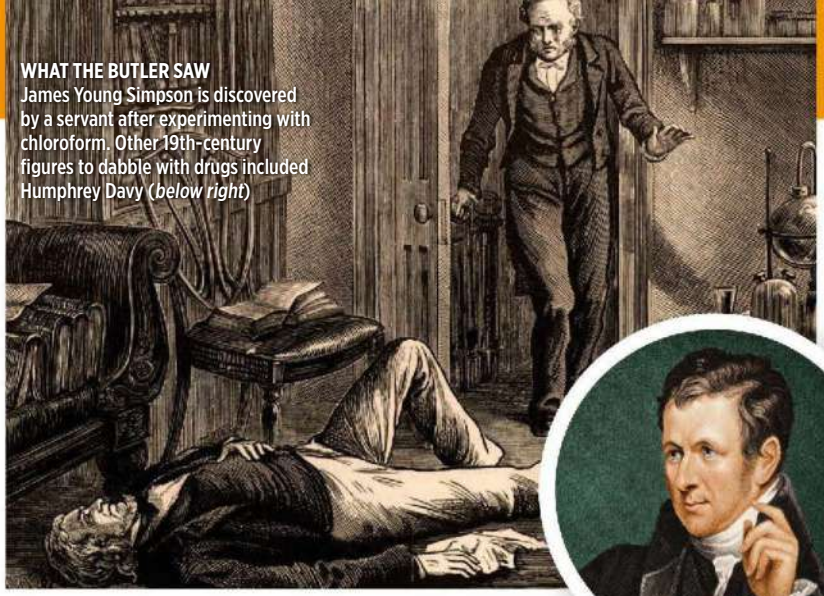
However, the truth is that Mesopotamia proved to be a case of imperial overreach. Trajan's declining health coincided with the implosion of his conquests, as unrest convulsed the empire, including a major Judean revolt. Meanwhile, Britain and Mauritania descended into chaos, and it appeared that the entire Roman empire might unravel.

Subsequent historians' veiled accounts are partly due to Hadrian, Trajan's deft successor, who discreetly rectified the mess left by his predecessor. Hadrian had no interest in tarnishing Trajan's memory since his own legitimacy derived from his reckless forebear.

Nevertheless, when evaluating Trajan's place in history, it becomes apparent that his conquests, though initially lauded, seriously undermined Rome's ability to pacify the Mediterranean Basin, making his reputation as the 'best of emperors' somewhat questionable.

▶ To hear more from Tom Holland on Trajan's conquests and Rome's golden age, visit *historyextra.com/pax-pod*

CARVING OUT A LEGACY? A cast of a relief on Trajan's Column, Rome (*main*), shows the so-called 'best of emperors' (*also depicted right*) leading his men into battle. Despite his victories against the Dacians, Trajan's achievements have arguably been overstated



WHAT THE BUTLER SAW
James Young Simpson is discovered by a servant after experimenting with chloroform. Other 19th-century figures to dabble with drugs included Humphrey Davy (*below right*)

PODCAST

Has drug-taking always been stigmatised?

Answered by Mike Jay, author of *Psychonauts: Drugs and the Making of the Modern Mind* (Yale, 2023)

Drug-taking was once regarded as a scholarly vocation before the advent of 1960s counterculture and so-called 'war on drugs' eclipsed this respectable frontier of scientific inquiry. Many people, including doctors and philosophers, chose to venture into this uncharted territory, consuming mind-altering substances to test their effects.

One trailblazer was Humphry Davy, the renowned chemist and Royal Society president. In 1799, Davy's self-experimentation with 'laughing gas' (nitrous oxide) fascinated his peers and compelled Romantic poets like Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey to follow suit.

Indeed, self-experimentation denoted intellectual rigour, not delinquency, and luminaries like Sigmund Freud followed in Davy's footsteps. In 1847, this same methodology led Queen Victoria's obstetrician, James Young Simpson, to prove the efficacy of chloroform for surgery after both he and his colleagues woke to find themselves on the floor after inhaling the chemical hours before.

Throughout this groundbreaking era, the scientific establishment expanded both their own minds and the scope of human knowledge in general.

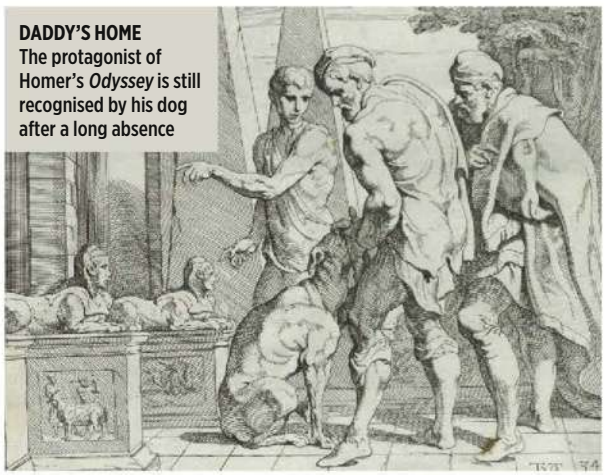
▶ To hear more from Mike Jay on the history of drugs, visit *historyextra.com/drugs-pod*

Did the Romans make tombstones for their dogs?

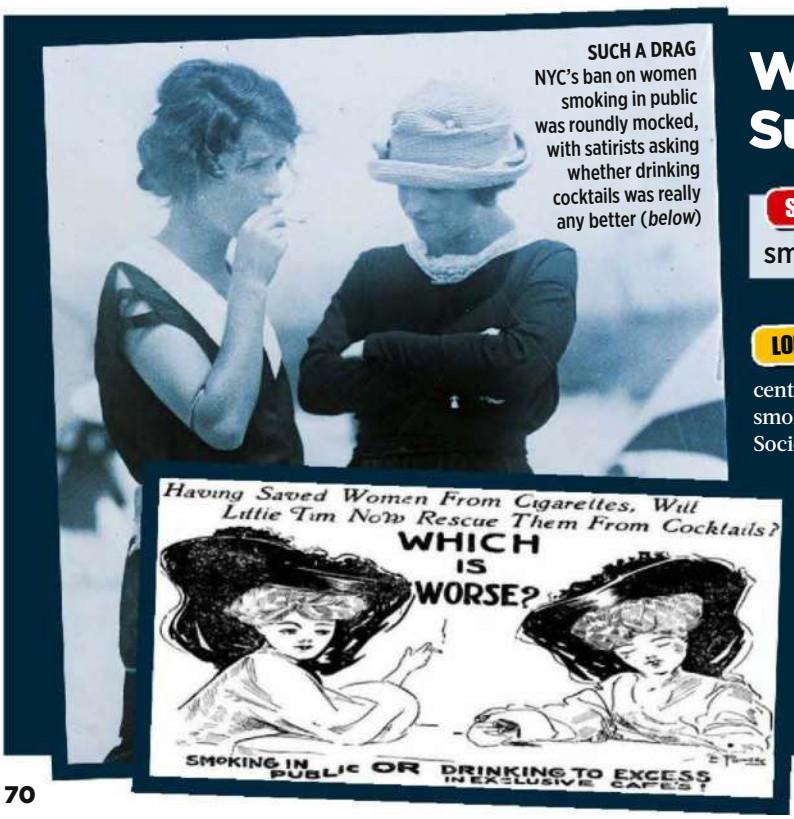
SHORT ANSWER Dozens of touching tributes have been found on tombstones for furry four-legged friends of old

LONG ANSWER "So, Patricus, never again shall thou give me a thousand kisses. Never canst thou be contentedly in my lap." This tribute was carved on a tombstone for a dog, clearly a good boy in life. It turns out that the Romans displayed their love for pet pooches in a way comparable to 'dog parents' on Instagram and TikTok today.

The Greeks were similarly soppy: don't forget that the hero Odysseus had a faithful hound, Argos, who waited 20 years for his master to return. Interring and memorialising a dog was, in fact, relatively common, and owners let it all out. Another tombstone reads: "I am in tears, while carrying you to your last resting place as much as I rejoiced when bringing you home in my own hands 15 years ago."



DADDY'S HOME
The protagonist of Homer's *Odyssey* is still recognised by his dog after a long absence


Having Saved Women From Cigarettes, Will Little Tim Now Rescue Them From Cocktails?
WHICH IS WORSE?
SMOKING IN PUBLIC OR DRINKING TO EXCESS IN EXCLUSIVE CAFES?

SUCH A DRAG
NYC's ban on women smoking in public was roundly mocked, with satirists asking whether drinking cocktails was really any better (*below*)

What was the Sullivan Ordinance?

SHORT ANSWER In 1908, New York had a public smoking ban – but only for women

LONG ANSWER At the turn of the 20th century, the sight of a woman smoking could cause uproar. Society was still getting used to women not needing a man escorting them, let alone dealing with them having a cigarette – a symbol of vice and, surely, loose sexual morals.

So, on 21 January 1908, a law came into effect in New York City, named for the alderman who sponsored it, banning women from smoking in public.

The next day, Katie Mulcahey became the first to be arrested under the Sullivan Ordinance. When brought before a judge, she stood her ground and angrily declared: "I've got as much right to smoke as you have. I have never heard of this new law, and I don't want to hear about it. No man shall dictate to me!"

Mulcahey was fined five dollars, but the ban lacked support. The mayor vetoed it two weeks later.

GETTY IMAGES X4, ALAMY X3

HEAVY DUTY
The size of the Mouse tank can be gauged by looking at the man emerging from the hatch in this image

What is the heaviest tank ever built?

SHORT ANSWER Don't be fooled by the name: the 'Mouse' would have been a monster on the battlefield

LONG ANSWER In terms of the heaviest tank actually in operation, the Char 2C, developed by the French in World War I and ready in the 1920s, weighed in at around 70 to 75 tonnes. The Nazis, however, came close to creating a war machine two-and-a-half times that. The Panzerkampfwagen VIII Maus, or 'Mouse', was over 10 metres long and nearly four metres high, with a 128mm gun on top and armour averaging 20cm thick. Its total weight: 188 tonnes, or equivalent to five or six Sherman tanks used by the Americans.

Essentially, its purpose was to one-up the Allies, something Hitler fixated on when it came to military hardware. Unsurprisingly, he loved the Maus. Development of such a super-tank began as early as 1942 as the company Porsche picked up the contract – and the problem of devising an engine powerful enough to move such a monster yet small enough to be carried inside one.

But there was nothing they could do about its impracticality, being too heavy to cross most bridges and guzzling oil at a worrying rate. The Maus kept being tinkered with, but by 1945 only two hulls had been built, and the Nazis – on the verge of defeat – abandoned the project.

70

The number of days required to mummify a body in ancient Egypt. It involved removing most of the vital organs, and then drying the body in natron before wrapping in linen bandages.

Who devised 'BC' and 'AD'?

SHORT ANSWER Fed up with using the Romans as their gauge, a couple of Christians came up with their own calendar

LONG ANSWER 'BC' means 'before Christ', 'AD' means 'anno Domini' (in the year of the Lord), and the switchover between the two marks the traditional birthdate of Christ. It should come as no surprise that two Christian monks get the credit for the terms.

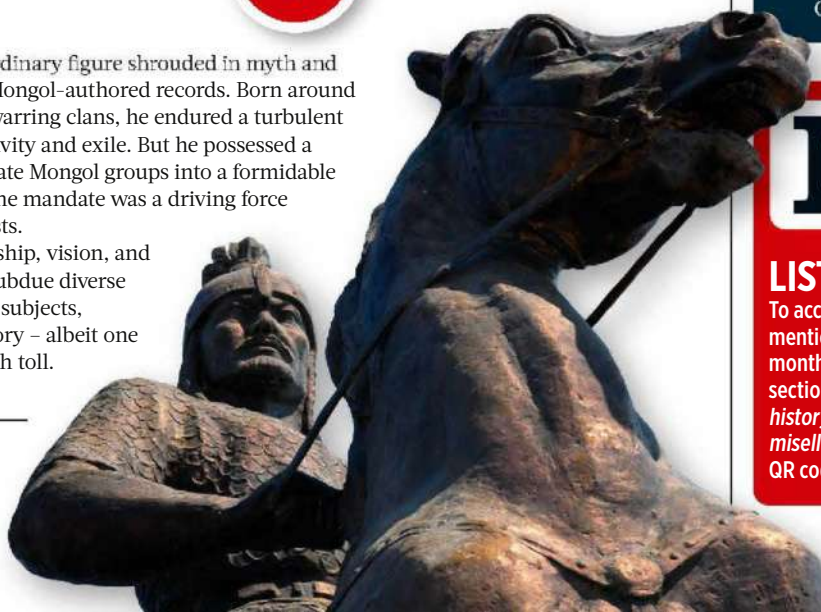
The first was a man named Dionysius Exiguus, also known as Dennis the Small. In AD 525 (although no one at the time referred to it that way), he drew up a table to calculate the ever-changing date of Easter. Rather than using the common method of numbering years based on the reign of Roman emperor Diocletian – a touchstone moment for Christianity due to his persecutions – Dionysius put the focus on Christ instead.

He didn't come up 'BC', though. That came in the eighth century when the English monk Bede started referring to events that happened before Christ as, well, 'before Christ'. The BC/AD system then took off when adopted by the great Christian ruler Charlemagne.

Who was Genghis Khan?

PODCAST

Answered by **Nicholas Morton**, Associate Professor at Nottingham Trent University



NOT HORSING ABOUT
A statue of Gengis Khan in Kazakhstan. The modern country includes territory captured by the ruler in the 13th century

Genghis Khan remains an extraordinary figure shrouded in myth and ambiguity due to the scarcity of Mongol-authored records. Born around 1162 into a tumultuous world of warring clans, he endured a turbulent youth, marked by periods of captivity and exile. But he possessed a remarkable ability to unite disparate Mongol groups into a formidable confederation. His belief in a divine mandate was a driving force behind his extraordinary conquests.

Overall, Genghis Khan's leadership, vision, and martial prowess enabled him to subdue diverse civilisations and incorporate new subjects, leaving an indelible mark on history – albeit one accompanied by a staggering death toll.

▶ To hear more from Nicholas Morton on the Mongols, visit *historyextra.com/mongols-pod*

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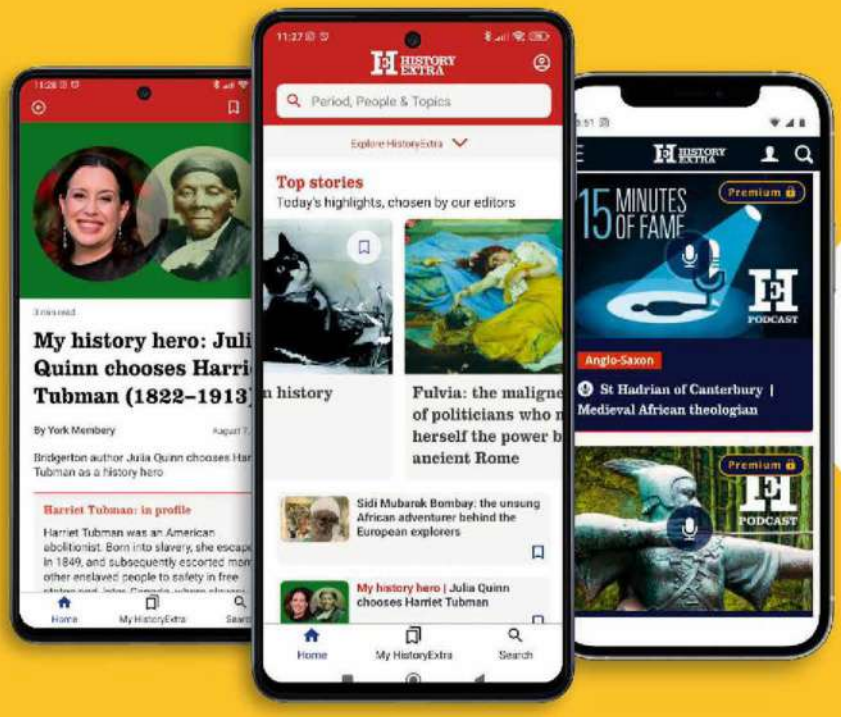

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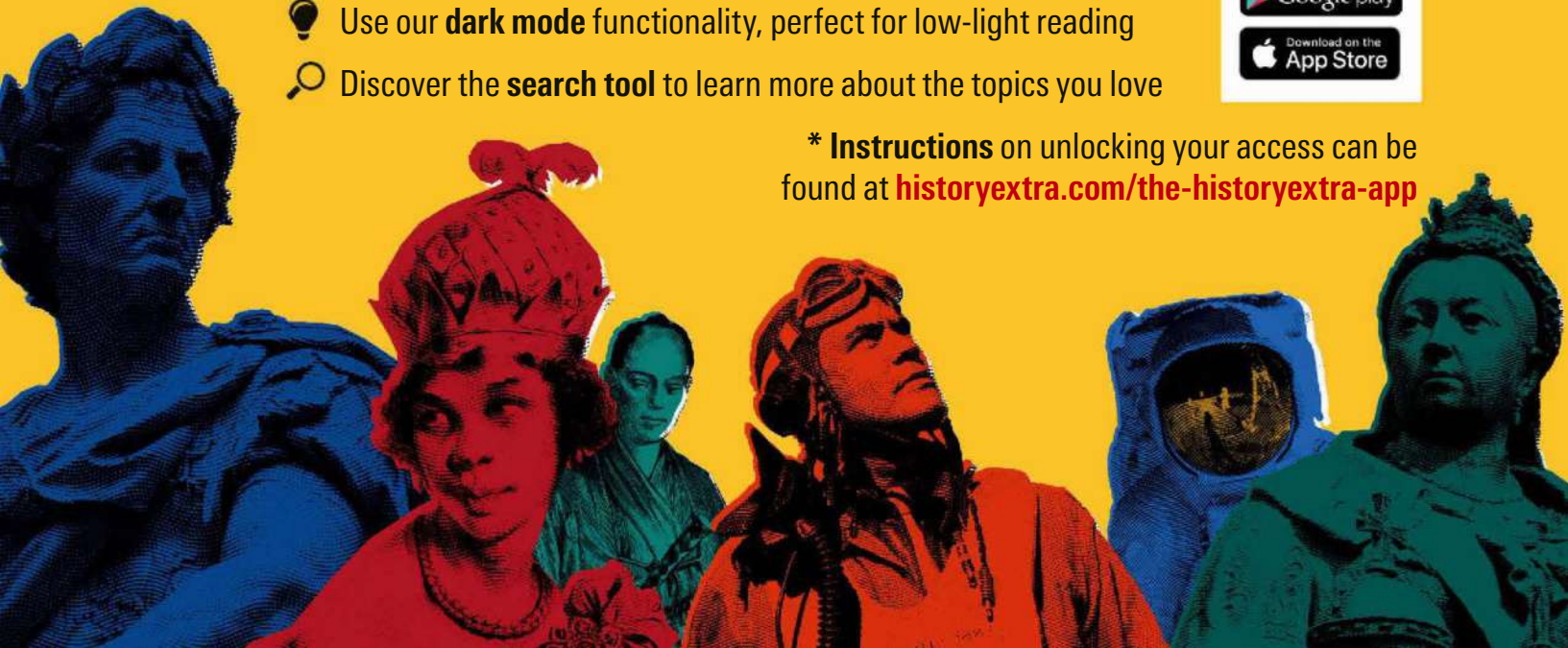
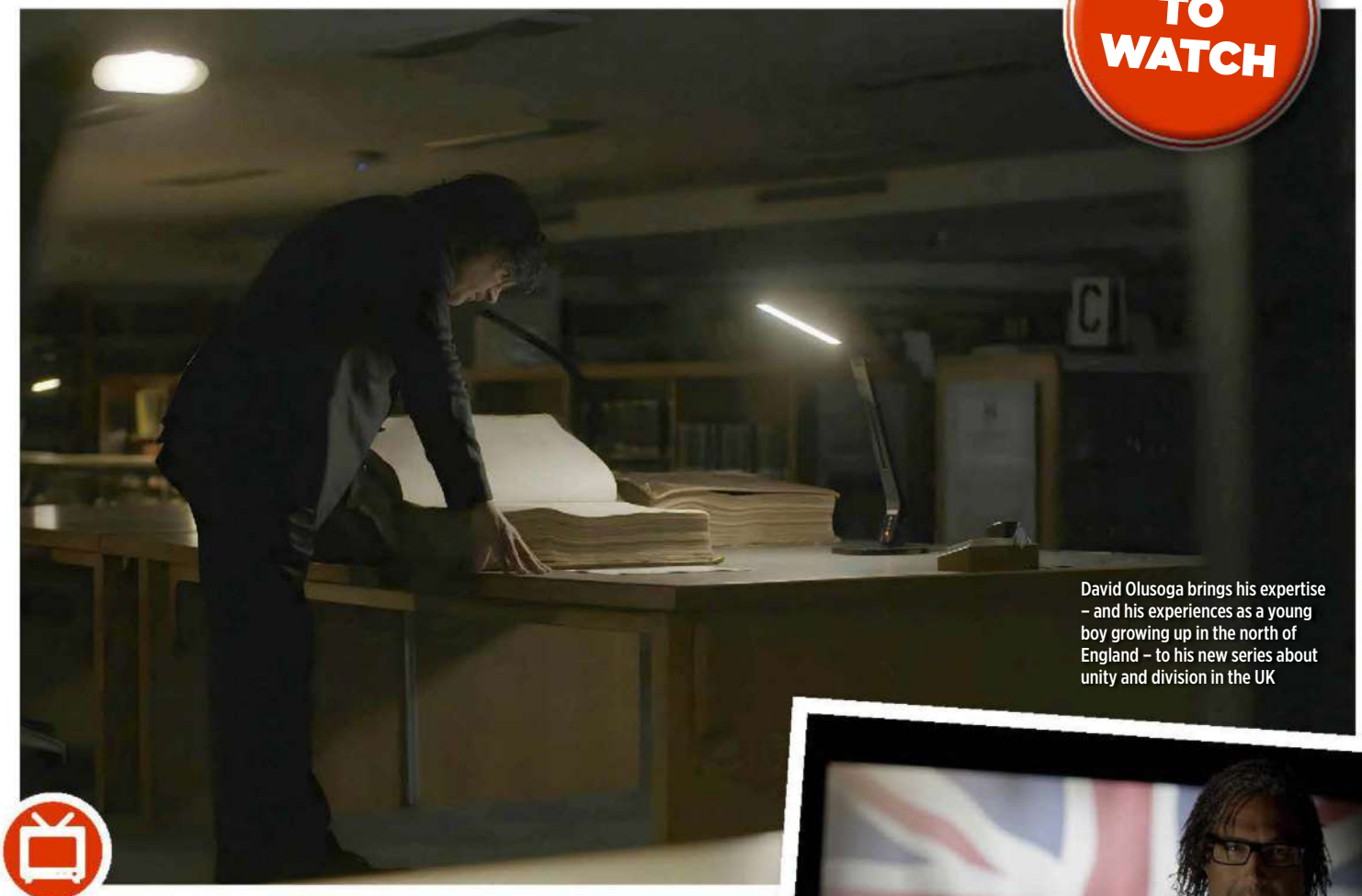


ONE TO WATCH



David Olusoga brings his expertise – and his experiences as a young boy growing up in the north of England – to his new series about unity and division in the UK

Uncertain future

Union with David Olusoga / BBC Two, October

Not since the end of World War I and the foundation of the Republic of Ireland has the future of the United Kingdom seemed so uncertain. It's easy to imagine a near future in which Scotland has gone it alone, Northern Ireland is in the midst of a border poll, and – its people considering what life tied to England might be like without the counterweights of the other home nations – Wales is moving towards independence or, at the very least, greater devolution.

Equally, it's just as possible that, given time, the current tensions – rooted in, among other factors, Brexit, economic inequality and different regional identities – will fade.

Whatever the future holds, understanding the past can at least help us to comprehend better how we got to such an uncertain now. Enter David Olusoga, whose new series – one of Auntie's biggest factual shows of the year – delves into the history of both union and disunion.

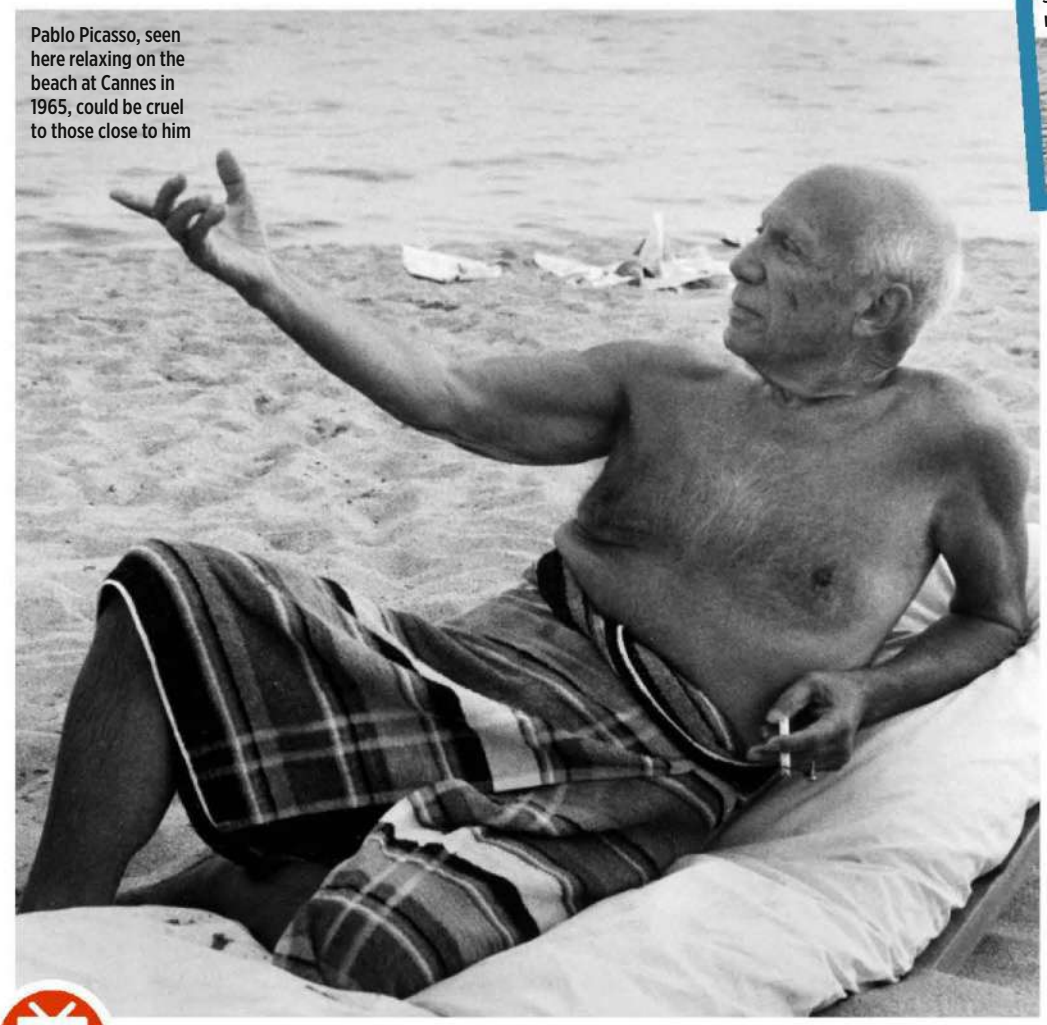
It's not just a story of tensions between the different home nations. Other fault lines are examined, too: England's north–south divide, for example, a recurring theme in British history that dates centuries. The shows also debate the way social class has so often determined people's fates, schisms between town and country, and how London, a global city, too often seems to dominate the national discourse.

The four part series begins with the Gunpowder Plot, which Olusoga links to misgivings over the idea of a union between England and Wales and Scotland. The programme ends with the passing of the Act of Union, 1707, a momentous historical moment partly rooted in a disastrous Scottish attempt to found a colony in Panama.

Subsequent episodes deal with such subjects as the Jacobite rebellions, the state of the nation seen through the eyes of demobbed servicemen in 1815, and the devastating effects of late 20th-century deindustrialisation.

WEEKLY TV & RADIO
Visit *historyextra.com* for updates on upcoming TV and radio programmes

WALL TO WALL MEDIA/BBC PICTURES X2



Pablo Picasso, seen here relaxing on the beach at Cannes in 1965, could be cruel to those close to him

A cruel kind of genius?

Picasso: The Beauty and the Beast / BBC Two and BBC iPlayer, from Thursday 21 September

What are we to make of the life and times of Pablo Picasso? When he died in 1973, at the grand old age of 91, the world mourned one of the towering figures of 20th-century art. Here was a man so prolific that he left behind more than 100,000 works, yet who worked constantly at the cutting edge – the creator of such pioneering masterpieces as *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon* (1907), *Weeping Woman* and *Guernica* (both 1937).

Today, though few seriously dispute the quality of Picasso's work, his conduct has increasingly come under scrutiny as it's become clear that he was often difficult to be around. Stories of womanising, cruelty in his closest relationships and even coercive behaviour have emerged. In addition, critics have reassessed his work through the prism of cultural appropriation. In the 21st century, Picasso is a problematical figure.

In short, there's more than enough material for this three-part series to deal with as it grapples with Picasso's genius and with the hurt he so often left in his wake. The first episode tackles his time in Paris, during the years when he was building his reputation and establishing friendships with such culturally significant figures as fellow painter Henri Matisse (1869–1954) and writer Guillaume Apollinaire (1880–1918). Subsequently, the series follows his journey through the middle years of the 20th century.

Contributors helping to address the series' underlying concerns – what price genius? And who pays? – include Picasso's younger daughter, fashion designer Paloma; artists such as Jeff Koons; and psychotherapist Philippa Perry.

Picasso's *Weeping Woman* (1937) was both artistically pioneering and political, lamenting Nazi bombing in Spain

The 1973 war between Israeli forces (including this soldier) and Arab states reshaped the modern world

Local war, global consequences

Archive on 4: How the Yom Kippur War Changed Everything, for Everyone / BBC Radio 4, Saturday 30 September

In October 1973, a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria launched military action against Israel. The Yom Kippur War lasted less than three weeks – yet, suggests journalist Michael Goldfarb in a one-off documentary marking the conflict's 50th anniversary, it profoundly reshaped the wider world. An Arab oil embargo imposed during the war caused inflation that ended the long postwar boom in the developed world. Longer term, the rise of neoliberalism can be traced back to the economic and geopolitical shocks of 1973.

The Yom Kippur War is also central to *Golda* (in cinemas from Friday 6 October), a biopic starring Helen Mirren as Israeli prime minister Golda Meir (1898–1978).

Dwayne Fields and Ben Fogle use Edwardian kit on their Antarctic expedition

ALAMY X4, CHANNEL 5 X1, APPLE TV+ X2

Black gold, black hearts

Killers of the Flower Moon / In cinemas from Friday 20 October (streaming later on Apple TV+)

Wealth can bring threats as well as benefits. In the 1920s, following the discovery of oil beneath their lands in Oklahoma, members of the Osage Nation became suddenly rich. In 1923 alone, the Osage earned the equivalent of $400m today in royalties from mineral rights.

Yet such fabulous sums proved a temptation to others. As journalist David Grann's 2017 book *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* explores, this wealth inevitably attracted trouble. Between 1918 and 1931, at least 60 full-blood Osage Native Americans were murdered as unscrupulous characters sought to gain control of their royalties. Some estimates put the total number of murders in the hundreds, killings that came collectively to be known as the Reign of Terror.

It's a story brought vividly to life in the latest drama from Martin Scorsese, which sees the veteran director reunited with Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert De Niro. Without giving away too many spoilers, both actors play figures at the centre of these horrific events. DiCaprio stars as Ernest Burkhart, husband of Osage Mollie (Lily Gladstone), while De Niro brings genuine menace to the figure of William Hale, a cattleman who amassed a fortune through dubious means.

The story is also important to the history of the FBI, then known as the Bureau of Investigation (BOI). Tom White (Jesse Plemons) of the BOI, a former Texas Ranger, was a key figure in uncovering the web of corruption that passed for politics in Osage County.

William Hale (Robert De Niro) and Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCapro) conspire against Oklahoma's Native Osage people (*top*) in a new film

Life in the freezer

Endurance: Race to the Pole / Channel 5, October

Even for those using the most modern kit, Antarctica is a forbidding environment. In the warmest month, January, the mercury rarely sneaks above freezing. In winter, such temperatures would seem balmy. Mistakes here can be deadly.

Yet the White Continent has, since the early 20th century, lured many adventurers determined to test themselves against the elements in this brutal wilderness. Having first travelled in Antarctica in 2009, when he skied to the South Pole, Ben Fogle is one such soul.

He's also long been fascinated by the golden age of polar exploration – those years at the beginning of the 20th century when such doughty pioneers as Robert Falcon Scott, Ernest Shackleton and Roald Amundsen commanded expeditions to this frozen realm. What would it be like to travel in Antarctica using the kind of equipment on which these men and their teams relied?

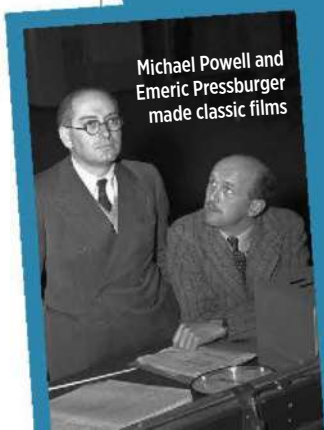
In the company of explorer Dwayne Fields, Fogle heads south for a new series in which, using Edwardian-era equipment, food supplies and shelter, the duo relive key moments from those earlier expeditions. In part, it's a way to understand how and why Amundsen made it to the South Pole while Scott and Shackleton failed – with Scott paying the ultimate price for his errors.

As we really are

Archive on 4: Powell and Pressburger – Poetic Patriotism / BBC Radio 4, Saturday 14 October

Collectively known as The Archers, English director Michael Powell and Hungarian writer Emeric Pressburger made 19 features together from the late 1930s, including classics such as *A Matter of Life and Death*, *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, *A Canterbury Tale* and *The Red Shoes*.

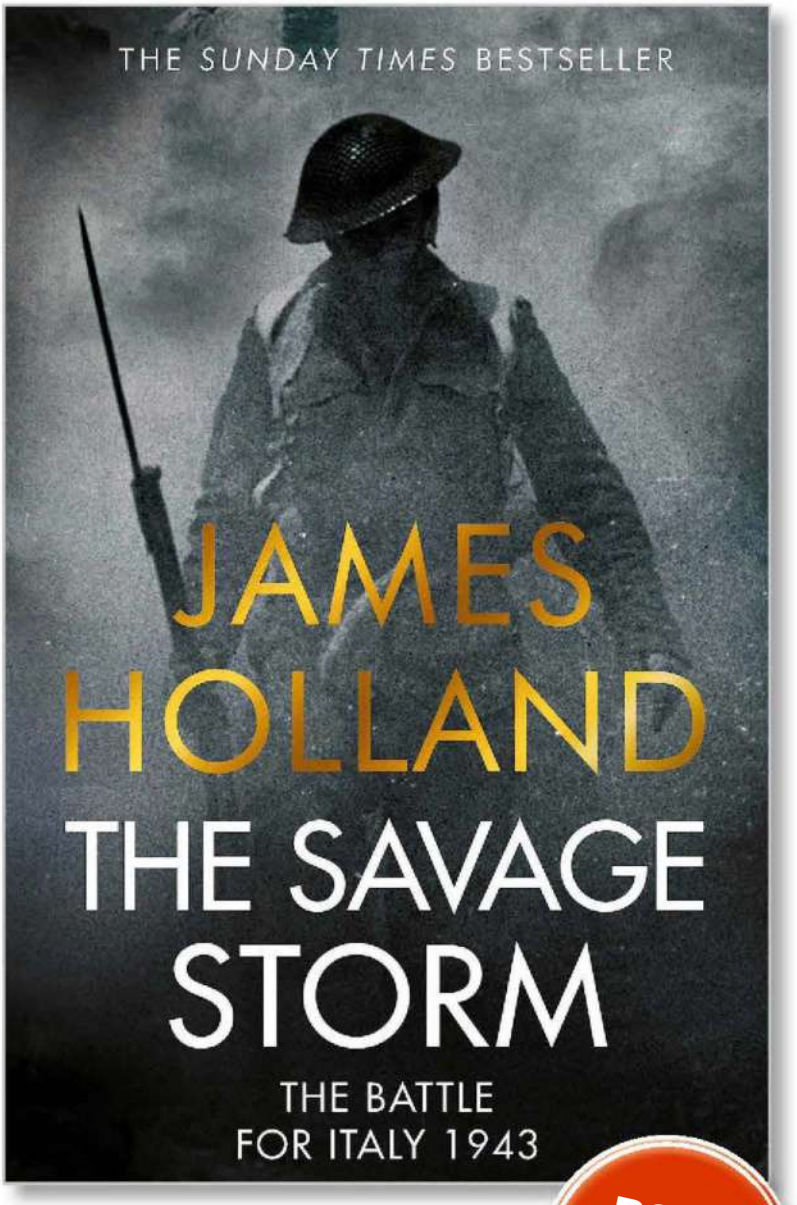
Ahead of a celebration of their films by the British Film Institute, a reappraisal of their work explores how this unlikely duo collaborated to offer a compelling vision of Britishness – one that was affectionate yet clear-eyed, never blind to our collective faults.



Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger made classic films

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS



BOOK OF THE MONTH

The Savage Storm: The Battle for Italy 1943

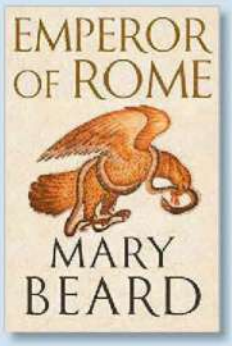
By James Holland
Bantam Press, £25, hardback, 624 pages

Deep into World War II, the events of the first half of 1943 had given the Allies cause for cheer. Yet hopes for a swift victory as troops headed into southern Italy that September were soon dashed. German fighters put up strong resistance, despite Italy itself having surrendered; the terrain was unforgiving, and the weather brutal. James Holland brings every inch of this battle vividly to life, fitting it into the wider picture and using first-hand sources to chronicle its devastating impact on those involved.

Emperor of Rome: Ruling the Ancient World

By Mary Beard
Profile Books, £30, hardback, 512 pages

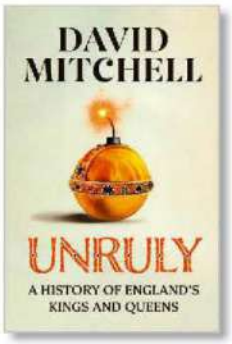
One of history's biggest names returns to cast her inimitable eye over the ancient world. Following 2015's smash-hit *SPQR*, which charted the experiences of ancient Rome's citizens, this time around she's focusing on those in charge: the motley cast of emperors who used their power for good, for ill – and for debauchery. One of her key arguments, however, is that not every Roman ruler can have been dangerously depraved, else the empire would have simply crumbled. Typically accessible, this is entertaining stuff from a master of her craft.

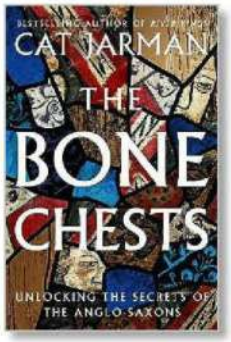


Unruly: A History of England's Kings and Queens

By David Mitchell
Michael Joseph, £25, hardback, 464 pages

Yes, *that* David Mitchell – the award-winning comedian and actor, and star of, among other things, *Peep Show* and *Would I Lie To You?*. Here he brings his typically wry style to an exploration of England's monarchy as far as Elizabeth I, profiling the men and, less frequently, women on the throne. There are jokes, as you'd expect; what might come as more of a surprise is his thoughtful consideration of the ways in which the monarchy has shaped English identity, and history's role in informing the present.





The Bone Chests: Unlocking the Secrets of the Anglo-Saxons

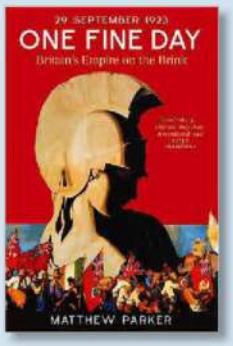
By Cat Jarman
William Collins, £25, hardback, 272 pages

December, 1642. As the Civil War raged, parliamentarian troops burst into Winchester Cathedral. Spotting a series of wooden chests, they broke them to pieces, using the bones within to smash the cathedral's windows. Yet far from being mere tools of destruction, those bones belonged to some of the Anglo-Saxon world's most prominent figures. Cat Jarman here charts their lives and why they ended up in those chests – and the scientific techniques used to piece their stories back together.

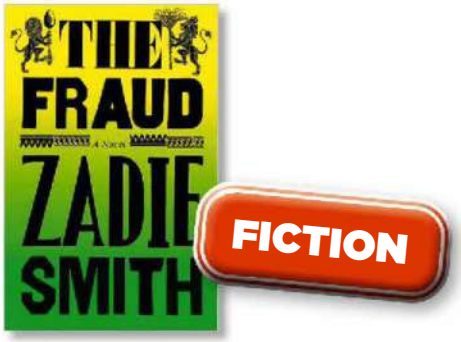
One Fine Day: Britain's Empire on the Brink

By Matthew Parker
Abacus, £25, hardback, 608 pages

One hundred years ago, the British empire reached its zenith – certainly in terms of its geographical sweep and the number of people who fell within its ambit. Yet, as this epic, thought-provoking book argues, 1923 also marked the point at which the fissures and the pressures started to show. Journeying around the world to reveal the diverse experiences of people at this moment of imperial change, Matthew Parker



tells the stories of the rulers and the ruled, those seeking change and those seeking to preserve the status quo.



The Fraud

By Zadie Smith
Hamish Hamilton, £20, hardback, 464 pages

Bestselling writer Zadie Smith – author of such bookshelf staples as her debut 2000 novel *White Teeth* – here brings her ebullient style and vivid dialogue to the world of historical fiction. Set in Victorian England, it's partly inspired by the real-life Tichborne court case that gripped the nation. Was the man at its heart really the rightful holder of a baronetcy? But Smith's interwoven narratives also roam elsewhere: to the plantations of Jamaica, into London's literary scene, and behind the facades of the British empire.

PODCAST WHAT TO LISTEN TO...

Each month we bring you three of our favourite podcast offerings from the BBC and HistoryExtra

Monsters of Music with Tom Allen

bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0g8sv5t

It's a big month for comedians getting in on the history game. As well as David Mitchell's new book (*see opposite page*), Tom Allen – whose waspish style livens up an assortment of panel shows – here takes a tour back to the heyday of classical music. Which composers, he asks, were Grade 8 human beings? And which deserved to be on the naughty Liszt?

Tokyo's devastating 1923 earthquake

historyextra.com/tokyo-earthquake-pod

On 1 September 1923, Japan's main island, Honshu, was hit by a massive earthquake. Thousands died, but that wasn't the end of its consequences: rumours that Korean people were poisoning wells and planning acts of violence led to a massacre. Here, Christopher Harding recounts this grim story, and its impact on the Japanese national psyche.

Did our ancestors really think the world was flat?

historyextra.com/globe-pod

Although some dissenting voices remain, it's now accepted that the world is spherical. Indeed, the term 'flat-earther' is now used to describe someone espousing outdated beliefs. This, James Hannam argues, is unfair on our ancestors, who reached that conclusion far earlier than we might realise. How and when they did so makes for fascinating listening.

9 PODCAST EPISODES ABOUT WORLD WAR II TO STREAM NOW

Want to learn more about World War II? We've rounded up some of the best *HistoryExtra* podcast episodes on the topic, featuring Laurence Rees, Sir Max Hastings, Dan Todman, Roger Moorhouse, Saul David, Tessa Dunlop, Iain MacGregor and Helen Fry...

THE BIG THREE

Part of a special five-part series answering some of the conflict's biggest questions, this episode from spring 2023 sees Laurence Rees assessing the relationship between Winston Churchill, Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin, and how it shaped the outcome of the war.

THE DAMBUSTERS

Few episodes of World War II are as iconic or ingrained in the British public consciousness as the so-called 'Dambusters' raid of May 1943. We spoke to Sir Max Hastings in September 2019 about his book on the operation, *Chastise*, focusing on the feat's bravura and overall cost.

THE WAR AT HOME

Dan Todman answers some of the most popular questions about life on Britain's home front in this episode recorded in March 2023. How did people prepare for the horrors of the Blitz? Was the black market that prevalent? And what was it like for child evacuees sent away from home?

THE WAR BEGINS

Back in September 2019, Roger Moorhouse joined us to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. In this episode he recounts the event that sparked the conflict in Europe: the joint-invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

THE HOLOCAUST

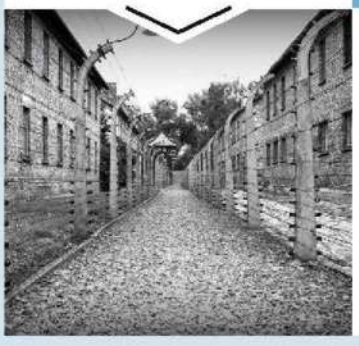
In this episode first released in 2017, Laurence Rees discusses his book *The Holocaust: A New History*, tackling some of the major questions, myths and historical debates regarding the Nazi regime's anti-Semitic measures and its genocide of Europe's Jews.

THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Historian Saul David discusses one of the bloodiest clashes of the war's Pacific theatre, the battle of Okinawa, in this episode from 2020. He explains how the ferocious encounter in spring 1945 was key to the United States' decision to drop the atomic bombs on Japan months later.

WOMEN AND THE WAR

What part did women play in World War II? This is the topic of Tessa Dunlop's book, *Army Girls*, which she discussed in this episode from January 2022. Dunlop delves into the war's impact on the women, drawing on the testimony of the last few survivors who served.



STALINGRAD

Regarded as a major turning point of the war, what was it like for those who fought at Stalingrad? In summer 2022, acclaimed author Iain MacGregor spoke to us about how the unpublished memoirs of a German officer who was there shed new light on the battle.

SECRET LISTENERS

The history of World War II is filled with ingenious intelligence operations and this 2019 episode featuring Helen Fry explores one of the most fascinating of those, revealing how German prisoners of war had their private conversations bugged by their British hosts.

HISTORY EXTRA PODCAST

To hear to these episodes, plus thousands of others covering a wealth of historical topics, visit *historyextra.com/podcast*. You can also listen on platforms such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

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CROSSWORD

TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR HISTORICAL PUZZLE EVERY ISSUE

CROSSWORD No. 126

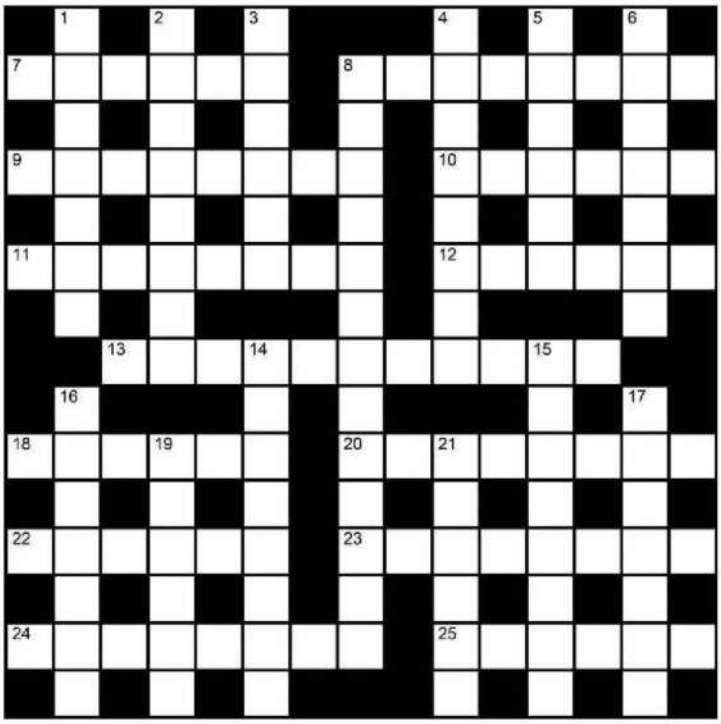
Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

ACROSS

7 Capital of Mali, formerly a major trading centre within the Malian empire (6)
8 Nickname of the French convict Henri Charrière (8)
9 Ritualistic suicide once practised by the Samurai (4-4)
10 Labour organisations, outlawed in the UK in 1799 (6)
11 Desert of southern Africa, home to the San people (8)
12 Richard ___ (1813–83), German composer (6)
13 1861 novel by George Eliot (5,6)
18 *The Thieving* ___, 1817 opera by Giaochino Rossini (6)
20 1948 Western film directed by Howard Hawks (3,5)
22 Daniel ___ (b1945), president of Nicaragua, 1985–90 and 2007–present (6)
23 US state, admitted to the Union in 1907 (8)
24 Edward ___ (1749–1800), youngest signatory of the US Declaration of Independence (8)
25 Mythical king in ancient Greece, said to have learned the secret of wine-making (6)

DOWN

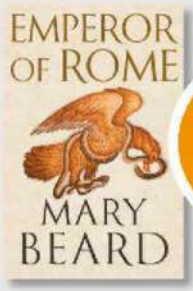
1 Venezuelan capital, founded in 1567 (7)
2 Japanese city, bombed on 9 August 1945 (8)
3 Lady ___, legendary noblewoman of Mercia (6)
4 Conflict of 1839–42 between Britain and China (5,3)
5 *The* ___ *Dutchman*, legendary ghost ship (6)
6 Arnold J ___ (1889–1975), English historian (7)



Set by Richard Smyth

8 Private detective created by Raymond Chandler (6,7)
14 Australian city, named in honour of the queen consort of William IV (8)
15 Christian festival of 6 January (8)
16 André ___ (1901–76), French novelist (7)
17 Jane ___ (d1537), third wife of Henry VIII (7)
19 City of Colorado, known historically for steel manufacture (6)
21 ___ Gang, Old West outlaw mob (6)

CHANCE TO WIN



BOOK WORTH £30 FOR THREE WINNERS

Emperor of Rome
by Mary Beard

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, November 2023 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester, LE94 0AA** or email them to **november2023@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 December 2023**.

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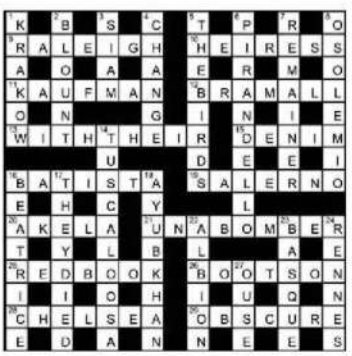
SOLUTION Nº 124



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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of ***BBC History Revealed***) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemedia.co.uk/privacy-policy. The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company London Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the closing date. If the winner is unable to be contacted within one month of the closing date, Immediate Media Company London Limited reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.
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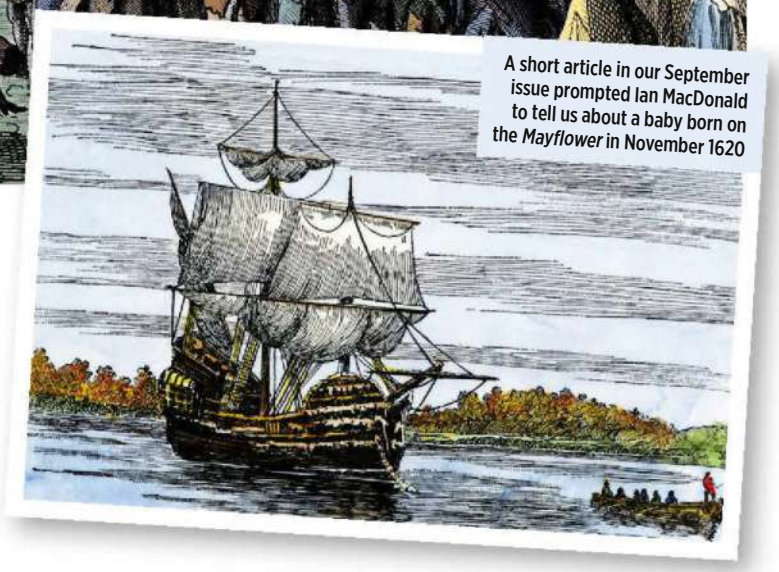
LETTERS

The 1780 Gordon Riots – which may have inspired a passage in *Northanger Abbey* – were explored in last month's Essential Guide. However, Vanessa Coldwell is still not convinced that Jane Austen's work captures the changing world in which she lived



A short article in our September issue prompted Ian MacDonald to tell us about a baby born on the *Mayflower* in November 1620

STILL NOT A JANEITE

As a lifelong member of 'Team Brontë' I didn't think your Essential Guide to Jane Austen's England (October 2023) could entice me to pick up one of her novels again (and it has been 10 years since I gave up on *Sanditon*) and I was right: while certainly very interesting, I found Dr Lizzie Rogers' 'Meet the Expert' article unconvincing. Yes, Jane Austen lived in a period of "great transition", but Dr Rogers omitted to provide the reader with what she calls "glimpses of a changing world" in Austen's writing.

I would have liked to have been given examples from the actual novels. Where are the "whispers of these events and ideas" – events and ideas such as racial equality, social and political unrest, war and conflict, uncertainty about leadership – in Austen's fiction? Rogers has not managed to get this Brontë fan and bookworm to give Jane Austen's novels another go.
Vanessa Coldwell, by email

Dr Lizzie Rogers, historical consultant for our Essential Guide to Jane Austen's England, replies:
As a fellow Brontë lover, I'm so glad you decided to give Austen another chance, though I'm sad to hear you did not feel the examples throughout the Essential Guide illustrated what I pinpointed in the 'Meet the Expert' article.

Firstly, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Persuasion*, with their near-constant presence of the Army and Navy, are an indicator of how many people during the period were in contact with war and political unrest, while *Emma* and *Mansfield Park* show class divide most pertinently, through the contrast between the rich Emma Woodhouse and Harriet Smith, and Fanny Price's shock at her own family's squalor compared to her adopted family at Mansfield. Importantly, *Mansfield Park* also highlights the ubiquity of absentee slave plantation ownership.

Overall, Austen's work is useful for understanding how ordinary people interacted with these themes as facts of daily life – something she also expands upon in her letters. I hope one day you might pick Austen up again and enjoy her – though she has plenty of great contemporaries if not.

MAYFLOWER MIRACLE

The US state of Virginia is rightly proud of Virginia Dare, the first child born there to English parents in 1587 (Miscellany, September 2023), but her fame is rivalled by Peregrine White, known as 'the first-born child of New England'.

Peregrine was born while the *Mayflower* lay at anchor in the harbour of Provincetown, off Cape Cod, on 20 November 1620, bad weather having forced the Pilgrims to abandon their proposed journey to Virginia. Following the death of his father, Peregrine's mother was the only widow to survive the harsh first winter faced by the Pilgrims.

Peregrine went on to become a farmer, lieutenant and captain, and lived to the age of 83 in a house that is still a tourist attraction today.
Ian MacDonald, Essex

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NEXT ISSUE

··· ON SALE 26 OCTOBER ···

QUEEN MARY I

Explore the life and reign of England's first queen regnant – from her tumultuous childhood and relationship with Henry VIII, to her rocky marriage with Philip II of Spain and posthumous reputation as 'Bloody Mary'

PLUS... IN PICTURES: THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR WHAT IF... CHARLES V HAD GONE TO WAR WITH HENRY VIII? **LIFE HACKS FROM HISTORY: HOW TO KEEP A SECRET** TOP 10 CITY FOUNDATION MYTHS **HISTORICAL CONUNDRUMS ANSWERED** AND MUCH MORE...

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the prize crossword in issue 123 are as follows:

A Allport, West Sussex
J Drayson, Berkshire
S Smith, London

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *Henry VIII: The Heart and the Crown* by Alison Weir.

We will post your prizes out as soon as possible.

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ARRESTING IMAGES FROM THE ANNALS OF THE PAST

THE RED DANUBE 2008

After communism collapsed across central and eastern Europe in 1989, the fallen regimes' socialist monuments were toppled. And as new states freed themselves from the grip of an ebbing Soviet Union, Vladimir Lenin – leader of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, so the symbolic figurehead most widely depicted across the region – became the main target of this wave of iconoclasm. However, that was not the last Hungarians would see of Lenin: in 2008, a fractured statue of the leader (*pictured*) was ferried past the Parliament Building in Budapest to be used as a prop in a movie. A collection of communist monuments can still also be found in Memento Park, established on the outskirts of the capital in 1993.

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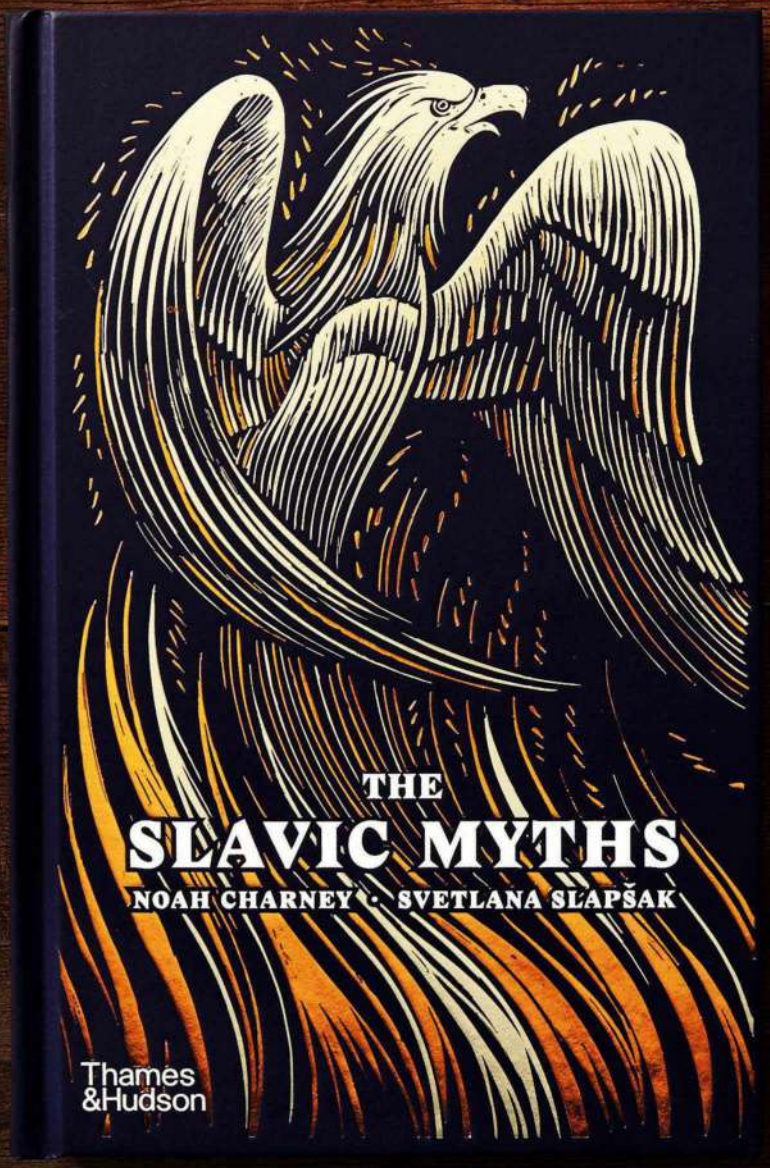

'A welcome entree into the intricate world of Slavic mythology'

SIR CHRISTOPHER FRAYLING

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